



Community Action Investment Program Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan

Quarterly Report (1st Quarter 2004)

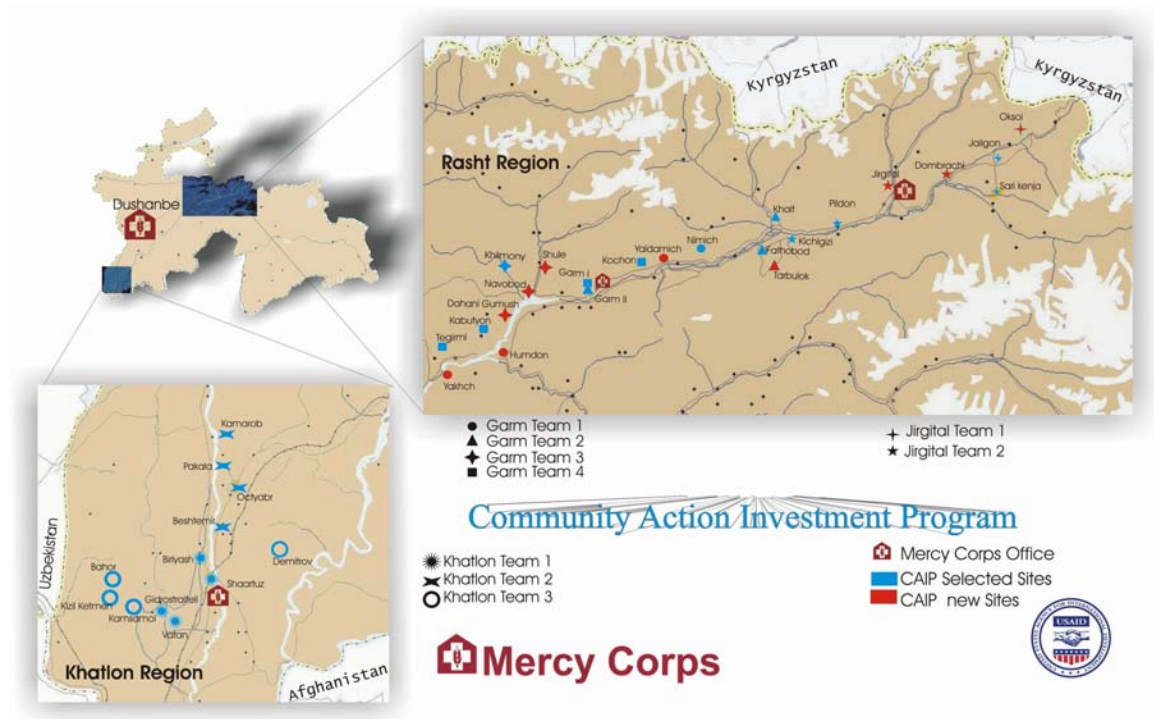
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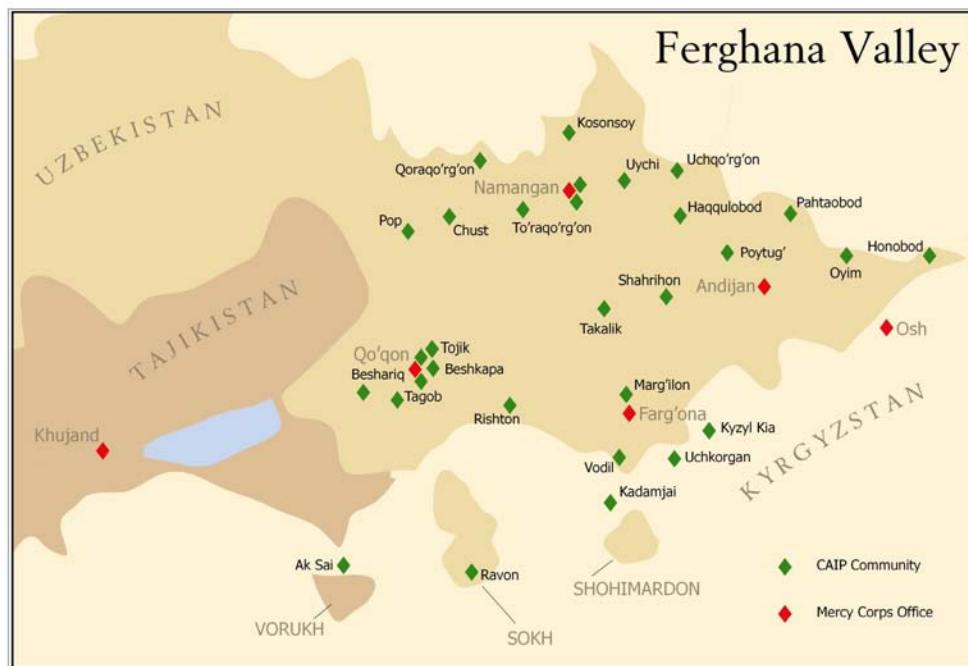
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CAIP Communities in Tajikistan



CAIP Communities in the Ferghana Valley (Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan)



Executive Summary

The Community Action Investment Program is a three-year Conflict Mitigation initiative, supported by USAID, and implemented in Central Asia since May 2002. CAIP strives to mitigate conflict in vulnerable regions of Central Asia by strengthening democratic and participatory processes within communities, providing community members the necessary tools to address sources of tension, which might otherwise lead to conflict. CAIP works together with communities to alleviate sources of tension directly by implementing projects to improve social services and to increase economic opportunities in those communities. Mercy Corps' CAIP Program Objective is to help prevent conflict by promoting broad-based citizen participation in targeted areas; resulting in improved standards of living, more active and engaged citizens, and more open, accountable local government.

This quarter's report will have a special focus on three CAIP priorities: **Youth Inclusion, Economic Development, and Conflict Prevention Training.**

Mercy Corps implements CAIP in four areas: the Ferghana Valley (Uzbekistan since the start of the program, and Kyrgyzstan, added in June 2003), the Rasht Valley and Khatlon region of Tajikistan, and the Lebap Velayat, Turkmenistan. During the first year and a half of the project, Mercy Corps has worked in 68 communities in 4 countries in Central Asia.

As of March 31, 2004, Mercy Corps' CAIP attained the following goals:

- Established 68 democratically-elected Community Action Groups (one in each community), each with 8-12 members, an average of 25% of whom are women;
- Conducted consensus-building workshops and numerous public meetings in each community, transferring skills in participatory methods to over 500 CAG members, which many have replicated in their own community meetings without Mercy Corps guidance. Over 6000 community members have been introduced to participatory methods during such community meetings;
- Conducted experiential training exercises with all CAGs, building skills in needs assessment, project design, project management, financial management, procurement, transparency and accountability, reaching over 500 CAG members and numerous community members;
- Completed or currently executing 279 sustainable community projects (infrastructure and social), directly benefiting 370,658 people;
- Fostered an increased understanding between local government and community members, by involving mahalla leaders and other local government leaders on CAGs, and local government agency staff in infrastructure project review and implementation;
- Facilitated increased learning opportunities of CAG members and local government by including them in cross-visits to neighboring community projects;
- Conducted youth mentoring training for over 300 young people in CAIP communities, resulting in increased involvement of youth in CAGs, community projects, and other community activities;
- Provided short-term employment to 880 people on community infrastructure projects; and created 31 long-term jobs;
- Leveraged \$401,314 of in-kind contributions to community projects, an average of 30% of total project costs.

Overall Progress Towards Targets (USAID-specified indicators, coded in Web-PRS)

Code	Description	Impact		Unit
1.1	Number of communities with CAIP projects	68		community
1.2	Number of projects implemented without donor support	Dozens (Anecdotal evidence)*		Project
1.3	Percent of costs covered by community or local government contributions	Cash	In-Kind	Percent
		0	30	
2.1	Number of projects maintained by the community	279		Project
2.2	Number of beneficiaries	370,658		People
2.3	Number of communities that tap into other USAID or donor programs in the region	5		Community
3.1	Number of people employed through projects	880		People
3.2	Number of people employed after project completed	31		People
3.3	Number of people trained	3000+		People

Progress per country

	TAJ	UZB	TKM	KYR	Total	Diff	Notes
Communities							
Expected	35	26	10	4	75		
Achieved	35	26	3*	4	68	-7	*Suspension of Program
Projects							
Expected	140	99	37	8	284		*Suspension of Program
Achieved	178	95	0*	6	279	-5	
Beneficiaries	230,776	131,872	0	8010	370,658		
Project Value							
Mercy Corps	\$288,747	\$682,629	0	N/A	\$971,376		
Communities	\$250,197	\$151,117	0	N/A	\$401,314		
Total	\$538,944	\$833,746	0	N/A	\$1,372,690		
% Community					30%		

Note about the figures in this report: The CAIP program was suspended in Turkmenistan in early 2003, pending national-level government approval. As of the time of suspension, CAIP had been working in three communities, and anticipated working in an additional seven. Mercy Corps takes an optimistic view, assuming CAIP will continue in Turkmenistan. Therefore all figures in this report reflect that we are working in three communities in Turkmenistan and will ultimately work in a total of ten.

* Anecdotal evidence suggests a wide assortment of small community projects and related activities being undertaken in CAIP communities without donor support. However, it is not always possible to isolate these projects for counting purposes, nor attribute them to the presence of CAIP in the community.

Progress During the Reporting Period

The three pillars of CAIP are these three Intermediate Results objectives:

1. Participatory and democratic processes strengthened at the community level;
2. Community social services improved through community action; and
3. Creation of sustainable and short-term jobs.

CAIP has achieved positive results towards all three of these IRs. Two years into the project, data indicates that participatory processes have been strengthened at the community level, community social services have been improved through community action, and short-term jobs have been created.

This report describes CAIP progress towards meeting each of these three IRs. However, CAIP takes an integrated approach to community empowerment with cross-cutting themes addressed throughout the implementation of each IR. Cross-cutting themes include: participatory decision-making, transparency among community members and with local government, inclusion of underrepresented groups such as women and youth, sustainability of infrastructure projects and of community action groups themselves (formal and informal), and continuous capacity-building. Implicit in all of these themes is the goal of conflict prevention.

CAIP's approach towards addressing these cross-cutting themes is described throughout this report.

Intermediate Result #1: Participatory and democratic processes strengthened at the community level

Empower citizens to take an active role in defining and fulfilling community needs, alleviating tensions that might otherwise lead to conflict.

Cumulative Results as of March 31, 2004

Expected Results over the 3-year life of CAIP (including expansion activities):

At least 75 communities will be better able to cooperatively identify common problems, design and implement solutions through civic action and collaboration with local authorities and social service organizations. This process will strengthen local democratic processes through participatory planning, critical thinking/problem solving, accountability and transparency. As a result, community social capital is increased (generalized trust, community-based trust, and trust in institutions).

Results to date (1st quarter 2004):

During the CAIP expansion in summer 2003, CAIP completed its expansion into ten new communities in the Rasht Valley, Tajikistan, five new communities in Namangan Oblast, Uzbekistan, and started-up the program in four communities in Batken Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. This brings the total number of Mercy Corps CAIP communities to 68. Due to unforeseen difficulties with CAIP approval in Turkmenistan, Mercy Corps was only able to engage three communities there. In Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, we are on target, with 65 total communities.

Expected results for the next reporting period (2nd quarter 2004):

In the event that CAIP is approved in Turkmenistan, we anticipate working in the existing three communities, and adding the seven originally planned, for a total of ten communities in Turkmenistan. The total number of Mercy Corps' CAIP communities is expected to be 75.

Number of CAIP Communities by the end of 1st quarter 2004:

	TAJ	UZB	TKM	KYR	Total	Deviation
Expected	35	26	10	4	75	
Achieved	35	26	3	4	68	-7 (suspension of TKM)
Total	35	26	10	4	75	Expected by 1 st quarter 2004

Detailed profiles of CAIP communities are available at <http://caip.usaidcar.info/>

Highlights of Community Mobilization Activities

Seminar: "Religious Extremism: Awareness & Prevention" in Khatlon:

In order to raise awareness about the potential dangers of religious extremism in Shartuz, the community (including youth, the CAG and the Women's Council) organized a seminar to discuss this controversial topic. In total, more than 320 people from a wide range of backgrounds participated in the seminar including religious leaders from the District and Jamoat levels, Youth & Women Representatives, CAG members, Students, local government officials, Security and Legislative officials, and Mercy Corps staff. In addition, government officials from Kurgan-Tyube, Kabodiyon and Beshkent also traveled to Shartuz to attend this forum. Participants spoke about the principles of genuine Islamic doctrine, Tajikistan national law and order with increased focus on extremism, historical facts and the horrible devastating impact of the Civil War which many felt was led by religious extremists. More details can be found in Annex 5

Following the Shartuz seminar, a similar forum was conducted in Kabodiyon where more than 150 people participated. Afterwards, many of the participants traveled to the Central Mosque to pray along with other community members. A similar seminar is planned for Beshkent District.

Religious Community Leaders Actively Involved in CAIP Communities in Rasht Valley

While a conscious effort is not made to recruit religious community leaders into Mercy Corps CAIP Community Action Groups (CAGs), the program seems to be attracting more and more involvement from them all the same. As a matter of fact, the Mercy Corps staff claims that every single one of our CAGs has representation from Muslim religious leaders (Mullahs). While the program prides itself on providing an inclusive environment where all interested community members can participate, nevertheless, Mercy Corps recognizes the significance of involving religious leaders and ensuring that they have a voice in the community organizing process because they are often recognized as informal leaders in the community. Without the support and participation of Mullahs, our community action groups would face increasing difficulties in attaining legitimacy as a decision-making body representing the interests of communities. In order for the program to continue to work effectively, Mercy Corps CAIP will continue to cultivate strong working relationships with religious leaders and tap this valuable resource as a way to promote our activities in CAIP communities.

Community Empowerment in Action

The community of Biryash prioritized the construction of a school for their children under the CAIP program. The local Hukumat agreed to provide the land for the school's location. However, the Hukumat allotted a site that was too far away for the community's children. In protest, the local community representatives (CAG members) organized themselves and other community members and approached the District Hukumat. The community requested that they provide a more suitable site. In response, the District Hukumat and Community leaders then traveled to Dushanbe together and appealed to the Republic Land Management Institute who then agreed to award the community a more suitable location which is easily accessible for their children.

Joint Initiatives of Community Members and Local Government

To fulfill part of the community contribution in the CAIP rehabilitation project of Octabyr School #57, community representatives and the Kabodiyon District Hukumat joined forces to order and pay for the manufacturing of 50 complete desk sets which will soon be provided to the school. Furthermore, the school children organized a fund-raising drive for school supplies and other materials by requesting that each student pay 50 dirams. To date, they have raised 170 Somoni.

Non-CAIP Initiatives Springing Up in Rasht Valley

One of the great ironies of our work lies in the fact that the best indicator of our success can only be measured outside the realm of our direct involvement in Mercy Corps/USAID CAIP communities. In other words, the only way to truly know whether a community has become empowered to pursue self-reliance and peaceful change is to observe initiatives entirely conceived, designed and funded, by community members. While these kinds of projects can usually only be measured after the completion of a program, Mercy Corps has identified several such projects springing up in CAIP communities. One example involves the community of Navobod in Rasht Valley in which the Community Action Group organized a snow removal program to clear town roads using local labor and funds collected from community members- a project which was implemented without any assistance from CAIP staff. As the Program moves forward, it is hoped that these kinds of projects will continue to take shape in CAIP communities, ensuring that communities continue their pursuit of healthy, united communities.

Local Business Contribution in CAIP Projects

In an effort to increase external resources beyond the community members themselves and local governments', the Shartuz CAG negotiated with one of the local businesses for a contribution to a CAIP project: "the construction of new toilets at the Central Bazaar". A joint agreement has been reached where a local businessman will contribute in cash at least 30% of the project cost, create 3 long-term jobs, and a small usage fee will be charged to the public which will then be used for operating and maintenance costs. Currently, the project is under implementation.

Furthermore, the GAG also managed to raise additional funds for another CAIP project. The President of Naturale, a Tajik-Turkish Joint Firm, has agreed to provide \$3,000 to support the construction of Somoni Square. The Mercy Corps/USAID CAIP contribution is \$9,980 USD. These funds will be used for the manufacturing of decorative concrete bricks for the pavement, the purchase and installation of fountain pumps, and for purchasing other construction materials.

Women's Empowerment in the Rasht Valley

A Consensus Seminar for Women was conducted in Garm. Because women have little voice in the larger Consensus Seminars in Garm, Rasht Valley team members and the Garm Women s

Committee have teamed up to hold the first project identification seminar only for Garm Women. The seminar resulted in the following projects being selected: Repair of Community Toilets; Repair of a Roof which Covers Residential Apartments; and a Water Supply Project for the Community's Hospital. This is the first women's seminar and the beginning of a concerted effort to conduct women's seminars in all Rasht Valley communities.

Cross-Community Conference

The third Cross-Community Conference took place in Bakhor that included representatives from all 12 CAGs, Youth & Women Committees, Hukumat representatives from Bishkent, Shartuz and Kobodiyon districts for a total of more than 50 participants. During the conference, participants shared their experiences, made presentations, and discussed challenges and future plans.

Rasht Valley CAGs Seek Formalized Status

With one year remaining for the implementation of Mercy Corps' CAIP Program, Rasht Valley staff members are placing more and more emphasis on educating Community Action Group members about options for sustaining their structure/activities after CAIP. Largely developed as a mechanism for linking community members of varying backgrounds and perspectives together in an effort to prevent conflicts, the CAGs also serve a vital role in pursuing internal and external resources necessary to address social and infrastructure needs which exist in CAIP communities.

In an effort to help these community groups make the leap from Community Based Organizations to Non-Governmental Organizations, Mercy Corps has teamed up with the IREX Civil Society Support Center in Garm (a program also funded by USAID), to educate our CAG members about how to pursue NGO status. So far one community action group has received official NGO status and another CAG is in the final stages of the process. Both of these CAGs, and several other CAGs have expressed interest, are using skills developed through the CAIP program to develop project proposals which will be submitted to IREX for their new Community Development and Advocacy Grant Program. The program was developed to support community-based initiatives and participatory projects with the potential to promote ongoing democratic collaboration among local government, NGOs, local citizens' groups, and other community stakeholder groups.

If the CAGs' applications are accepted, the groups will receive additional training in project planning and management, advocacy, community outreach and the legal environment. The trainings will be followed by an infrastructure grant. Regardless of whether or not the CAGs' proposals are accepted, this is yet another indication that CAGs are increasingly taking more and more initiative in their effort to harness both local and external resources in their effort to improve the quality of life for their communities.

Non-USAID initiative in CAIP & neighboring communities: Traditional Hashar

The Beshkent District Hukumat and the District Water Department jointly organized a Hashar that included mobilizing approximately 400-500 people (approx. 80% youth) from 6 neighboring communities (i.e. Chiluchor-Chashma, Sangoba, Murotepa), that also included two CAIP communities (Kizel-Ketmen and Bakhor). It is expected that the Hashar will continue for 20 days as it entails manually cleaning a 6km long Bishkent main Irrigation Canal. The labor has been estimated to be worth approximately 12000 Somoni.

Community Initiatives/ "Hashar" Activities Organized by CAIP/ CAG Members

In Shartuz, the Community Action Group (CAG), Jamoat and community members organized a "Hashar to clean up the city. In particular, a total of 2,000 community members (including 3 schools and 6 mahallas) planted & pruned trees, cleaned canals & streets and removed garbage.

In Garm, the CAG chairman organized a community Hashar to repair the water supply line. A total of 450 Somonis were collected from 150 families. Forty-five community members which the majority consisted of young men repaired the water supply line and then a lunch was prepared for all the workers from funds that the community had collected. At the lunch, the CAG chairman, Mr. Rahim said: "Today, you all witnessed that we are able to solve our own problems if we collaborate and use the experience that we have gained from the CAIP experience which has taught us to raise our own funds and to work together".

In Nimich, the CAG chairman organized a "Hashar" for cleaning the local roads, the public center, and for removing the snow from the school's roof.

In the district of Jirgital, the community members of the village "Oksoi" organized a "Hashar" to clean the road that connects two villages (Oksoi & Kashat) after a three meter avalanche caused the road to be closed for nearly two months.

In Tegermi, the Youth Committee and CAG members organized a "Hashar" to clean 250 meters of road that was covered in thick snow. In total, seventy (70) community members worked for twelve hours with spades to remove the snow. Now, the community can travel to the district center.

In the community of Tarbulok, the CAG chairman brought the community together to discuss the unfortunate death of one of their community members who died while working in Russia. This tragedy is not that uncommon among many Tajik families as a majority of the Tajik migrant workers in Russia often find themselves doing manual labor in fairly dangerous working conditions. When such a tragedy strikes the Tajik family, they usually can not afford to fly the body back to Tajikistan for a proper burial service. As a result of this meeting, the community decided to collect 10 somoni from each family and they were able to ship the body back to Tarbulok.

Community Members organized several Hashar events In Rasht Valley:

In Garm, a Hashar was organized by the Chairman of the CAIP Project Implementation Team to clean a road that had been destroyed in a landslide. A total of 351 sumonis were collected to pay for a rental of machinery. A total of 73 people participated.

Upon the initiative of the CAG member in Bedak, a hashar was organized for the rehabilitation of the existing hydel and \$400USD was collected to purchase a turbine.

The CAG and local government members organized a hashar in Shule to clean the roads after a landslide. Each family contributed 50 dirams and a total of 250 sumoni was collected.

CAG members in Tergermi collected 400 sumonis for purchasing visual aids for the secondary school.

In Khatlon, Renovated CAIP Youth Centers are Community Focal Points

Two recently renovated CAIP Youth Centers in Khatlon have been the center of various community activities. In Octabyr, the Youth Center hosted a conference dedicated to the National Guard Day which drew a crowd of more than 400 visitors including veterans (some from World War II) and other community members. In Bakhor, the Youth Center is stimulating local business opportunities. To date, it has already rented out various spaces for local community businesses such as a Men's Barber shop, Women's Beauty Salon, a video rental store and plans to lease space for a pharmacy. The youth groups had identified these business opportunities early on during their consensus workshop. The fees collected from rent will partly be used to maintain the youth center. In addition, office space has been provided for the CAG, the Women's committee and for a computer class.

CAIP Communities Approve Cluster Projects

In an effort to provide assistance to communities neighboring CAIP sites and to help improve relations amongst those communities, Mercy Corps CAIP is implementing "cluster" projects in non-CAIP communities throughout Khatlon and Rasht Valley. Several tasks must be accomplished before cluster communities can be given the opportunity to select projects. First, and most importantly, complete agreement must be voiced by the Community Action Group in support of the commitment to fund projects in other communities. Then, with assistance from CAG members, Consensus Seminars are conducted in those cluster communities where such agreements are made, Project Implementation Teams are formed, and implementation of the projects begins under the direction of the CAG from the neighboring community. CAIP staff members have already observed significant outcomes from the cluster agreements, two of those include: 1) improved relations between communities which have formerly clashed over access to resources and other issues; and 2) the empowerment of CAG members who have become empowered by being placed in a position where they are able to advocate for the interests of neighboring communities as well as their own. In addition, it is hoped that these kinds of cross-community relationships will contribute to Mercy Corps' CAIP's goal of developing Community Action Groups, or similar representative committees, in non-CAIP communities.



Typical example of a Transparency Board (Poytug, Uzbekistan)

Spotlight on Local Government

Since independence from the Soviet Union and the harsh economic climate that has resulted, small communities throughout Central Asia's Ferghana Valley have experienced a drastic

reduction in services and support from their local governments. This has created an environment of tension and hostility between communities and government bodies. Mercy Corps' USAID-sponsored Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) has made incredible progress in reducing this tension through fostering mutual cooperation between the two entities in implementation of their infrastructure and social projects.

As with most CAIP communities, Navbahor mahalla in Beshariq has seen positive changes in the community's sentiment towards the local government, and vice versa. During early phases of implementing a gas project that the community had chosen, the hokim was nearly unavailable for support. And community members are so conditioned to being refused support from the government; they assume the worst before even making an attempt. "The hokim would not help. At first, he was not interested in the project at all," says Qurban Oshenboev, project manager, "In fact, we didn't even bother to go to him for help because we know he would say there was no money." But Mercy Corps staff and CAIP communities agree that government authorities who were once too overwhelmed to offer assistance, are responding actively to the more financially and logistically manageable projects that Mercy Corps has presented.

This shift in trust and support between residents and local government before and after a CAIP project is a common theme throughout almost all of CAIP's communities. In Urganjibog' mahalla in Kokand city, community members say they received no support from the local government when they began reconstruction on their horribly dilapidated school. When the project was nearly completed, the community contributions and Mercy Corps' support were not enough to pay for pupils' desks and chairs, and the people persisted in appealing to the local government organs for assistance. Finally, representatives from the Oblast and the Regional Education Department visited the site, and were so impressed with the success of the project; they agreed to collectively contribute 8 million soum (\$8000) to purchase the new furniture for the students. "They only gave us the money because they had seen the great work we had done here," says one teacher.

The reduction in tensions between government and communities is only the beginning of the positive impact CAIP has had working in the Ferghana Valley. Abdulla echoes the sentiment of empowerment consistent throughout CAIP communities: "Our relations have improved, but we now know we don't have to sit on our hands and wait for the government. We can do this on our own."

Intermediate Result #2: Improved community social services through community action

Improve standard of living and empowerment in CAIP communities, which leads to a decrease in potential for conflict.

Results to Date

Expected Results over the 3-year life of CAIP (including expansion activities):

Completion of 4-7 small infrastructure projects in 75 communities, for a total of between 300 and 525 projects. Over 392,000 beneficiaries (an average of 5200 per community) will have gas, electricity and/or similar services through the provision of improved infrastructure, human and physical resources, including improved community ownership and responsibility through existing or new associations, maintenance committees and users-groups/associations. Expenditures of \$37,500 to \$75,000 expected per community.

Results to date (1st quarter 2004):

By March 31, 2004, CAIP communities have completed or are implementing 279 projects in 46 communities (excluding Turkmenistan), reaching 370,658 beneficiaries. Total project value is \$1,372,690, of which \$401,314 (30%) is community match.

CAIP Community Projects Completed or Under Execution as of March 31, 2004

	TAJ	UZB	TKM	KYR	Total	Notes
Expected	140	99	37	8	284	Suspension of TKM program Fewer & larger projects in UZB, larger & smaller projects in Tajikistan
Achieved	178	95	0	6	279	
Deviation	+38	-4	-37	-2	-5	

Details about specific CAIP community projects is available at <http://caip.usaidcar.info/>



Community Center in Kokand constructed by CAIP community

Intermediate Result #3: Creation of sustainable and short-term jobs

Improve standard of living in CAIP communities through increased incomes and job opportunities. Communities will be better able to meet needs from own resources, leading to decrease in potential for conflict.

Expected Results over the 3-year life of CAIP (including expansion activities):

At least 75 communities will benefit from increased or sustained job opportunities and incomes through employment on infrastructure projects and participation in community economic development projects.

Description of Economic Development Activities

The economic development component of CAIP was started under the CAIP expansion, granted in June 2003. This component consists of the following major activities: 1) dialog and advocacy;

2) business training and economic education; 3) technical assistance to businesses; 4) economic infrastructure projects; and 5) the provision of credit.

Short and long-term employment generated through infrastructure projects will continue throughout the life of CAIP and onwards, where communities are able to continue to mobilize their own resources. In second quarter 2004, CAIP will establish Community Development Councils, conduct business training, and begin selecting community business initiatives for support.

Dialogue and Advocacy

A key concern of businesses surveyed was the lack of information and coordination they had with local officials especially with regulatory agencies including taxation and registration. Of the sixty seven businesses assessed by CAIP EDO's (Economic Development Officers) less than 20% had legal registration to cover all their activities. Businesses also had limited knowledge of regulations of other agencies including sanitation, certification, and standardization. To address this challenge MC CAIP arranged a series of Business Roundtables. Roundtables are arranged in two stages the first is a focus group with local business people who determine the issues and questions they would like to address at the roundtable, next EDO's meet with local officials to arrange the meeting. Lastly, business people and local agencies meet and discuss the issues in a meeting facilitated by MC EDOs. The expected results of these roundtables are:

- Increased knowledge of businesses regarding key issues, such as taxation and registration.
- Greater trust, cooperation and coordination between local government agencies and businesses
- Increased participation of businesses in decision making and practice of democratic processes at the community level.

Roundtables to Date

Community	Date	Agencies	Participants
Uzbekistan			
Galatoy, Margilon	November 14, 2003	Taxation, registration, Chamber of Commerce	30 local business people
Besharik, Andijan	December 3, 2003	Taxation, registration, and Chamber of Commerce	45 local business people
Urgangibod, Kokand	December 4, 2003	Taxation, registration	35 local business people
Qozi Ahror, Rishtan	December 22, 2003	Taxation, registration	40 local business people
Tajikistan			
Shaartuz	January 2004	Taxation Issues for Small Businesses	19 local business people

Total number of participants in Business roundtables: 169

Total number of participating agencies and officials: 14



Participants at a November roundtable review registration information presented by officials from the Hakimlik in Galatoy mahalla of Margilon.

EDO's are now working with businesses and local agencies to follow up on the first meetings with the goal of having businesses and agencies develop strategies and recommendations for greater cooperation and information sharing. Opportunities for further cooperation are also now being identified with groups of borrowers and with local associations, and support sectors. Future roundtables will be used to develop strategies among businesses for addressing shared problems.

Business Training and Economic Education

MC CAIP has worked closely with Pragma's Enterprise Development Program to identify national training partners to conduct business training in CAIP communities. The trainings provide essential business skills including marketing, accounting, and business planning.

Date	Site	Training Topic	Participants
Uzbekistan			
Dec 22, 2003	Galatoy, Margilan	Improving Your Business	25
Dec 22, 2003	Qozi Ahror, Rishtan	Improving Your Business	25
Jan 7, 2004	Besharik, Andijan	Improving Your Business	25
Jan 7, 2004	Urganibog, Kokand	Improving Your Business	25
Feb 25, 2004	Takalik, Yozyovon	Starting Your Business	25
Tajikistan			
Jan 19-22, 2004	Shaartuz	Business Planning and Loan Aspects* (Conducted by NABW)	19
Feb 10-13, 2004	Oktaybr, Pakala	Business Planning and Loan Aspects	29
Feb, 24-27	Shaartuz, Birlash, and Gidrostroytel	Business Planning and Loan Aspects	27
Mar 11-16	Bahor, Kizil, Ketmen,	Business Planning and Loan Aspects	25

MC CAIP has recently contracted a local business consultant to research all available registration options including associations, NGO's, and juridical businesses. The consultant will conduct a series of workshop trainings with CAIP communities interested in economic infrastructure or lending activities. CAIP has also consulted closely with USAID Enterprise Development Project and received the most current information on association in Farg'ona Valley and potential association building activities.

Junior Achievement Uzbekistan, Building Capacity of Educators and Youth in Economic Development

In late March, Mercy Corps signed a sub-grant agreement with Junior Achievement of Uzbekistan to implement teacher training and Junior Achievement economics in ten CAIP community schools. The sub-grant agreement includes training for teachers and student and teacher textbooks. In partnership with Junior Achievement Mercy Corps CAIP will design and implement a number of extra-curricular activities to improve the level of understanding of free market economics and entrepreneurship in CAIP communities. The overall goal is to increase the capacity of schools (teachers) and youth to start and manage small scale businesses. As a part of the program MC CAIP will support "Student Companies" at participating schools. These small school based businesses will give students real world experience in development and management of a business. Teacher training will begin in April, 2004 and teachers will begin using the program in ten Farg'ona Valley schools in September. The program will be used in the 9-11th forum.

Junior Achievement Economic Education and Teacher Training Project Sites:

Site	Name of School
Oyim, Andijan	School 32
Besharik, Andijan	School 4
Urganjibog, Kokand	School 38
Nonvolylik, Kokand	School 3
Khagqulobod, Namangan	School 1
Qurgon, Namangan	School 62
Istiqbol, Namangan	School 1
Galatoy, Namangan	School 16
Shifokor, Namangan	School 1
Qozi Ahror, Farg'ona	School 27

Total Estimated Beneficiaries: 300 students and 10 teachers

Total schools in Tajikistan: 15 (10 from Khatlon and 5 from Raasht, 300 students and teachers benefit)

Technical Assistance

MC CAIP has worked with Winrock Farmer to Farmer to benefit over 600 local farmers and entrepreneurs including providing technical assistance to its Raasht credit partners. MC CAIP has also worked closely with Pragma EDP, ACDI VOCA microfinance programs and local partners such as the Andijon Farmers Association to provide specific technical assistance to local farmers. Future months will see increased technical assistance and the formation of both formal and informal groups of village lead farmers, agronomists and others so that Farmer to Farmer experts can pass their knowledge to capable local counterparts.

In both FV Uzbekistan and Tajikistan May roundtable meetings will bring together local experts in preparation for FtF visits and to discuss strategies for development of key sectors in both countries

Technical Assistance, Complete and Planned

Date	Topic	Participants	Status
Uzbekistan			
February 7, 2004	Regional Fruit and Vegetable Drying Equipment Exhibition	100	Completed
April 30-May 1, 2004	Greenhouse Enterprises, Farmer to Farmer Volunteer (One day seminar and follow-on site visits) conducted in partnership with the Andijon Farmers Association, ACDI VOCA and with the participation of PAD, Pragma, and local greenhouse suppliers and service providers.	60 (Included one on one site visits to 5 CAIP community greenhouses)	Completed
April 2004	Co-sponsor of the Andijon Farmers Association Greenhouse Seminar	500, (provided printed technical materials to all participants)	Completed
August, 2004	Processing and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetable Products, (Farmer to Farmer volunteers, one day regional seminar, and one week of site visits)	Tentative 75	Planned
Tajikistan			
May 5-8 th	Financial Analysis and Strategic Planning for Micro Finance Programs	12 staff members of Oriyon	Completed

Total Beneficiaries: 672

Economic Infrastructure Projects

Uzbekistan

Economic infrastructure projects function much the same as other more traditional CAIP projects. Communities contribute at least 30% of the total project cost and implement the project with the assistance of MC CAIP field staff. Economic infrastructure projects differ in that they focus on job creation, skill transfer, and improving of business conditions in the CAIP community. At present Economic officers are working with the communities of Takalik and Rishtan to support tailors. In order to ensure sustainability MC has contracted a private business consultant to work with the implementing groups on registration and sustainability issues. In both cases the implementing groups include a number of youth, both as participants and planners.

Takalik has formed a youth club to assist in implementation of the "Center for Fruit Drying and Packing". Future projects will be developed based on meetings with businesses in CAIP Economic Development pilot sites.

Economic infrastructure projects play a key role in improving the environment for businesses using numerous approaches including: increasing the effectiveness by providing non-monetary incentives for businesses that provide on the job skill training, increasing access to needed inputs, support to key service providers and support sectors, and by improving access to markets. They are conducted using the existing CAGs and when possible using various community participatory techniques.

Special Interest Job Creation, Monitoring and Evaluation

At the end of this quarter MC Economic Development officers have begun routine monitoring with the clients and beneficiaries of economic development programs. The monitoring visits have initially shown that programs are increasing employment in CAIP communities. On recent monitoring visits in Shaartuz, Tajikistan a client reported that he had produced two long term jobs in his construction materials business who were working as carpenters. The jobs were the direct result of training, and a loan received from the national credit partner. In the upcoming quarter Economic officers will continue to gather data on the job creation aspect of the program. Economic infrastructure projects are also being used to promote greater employment and training of youth by providing non-monetary incentives for businesses that train youth in marketable skills. An example includes an infrastructure project in Rishton that will provide raw materials and sewing equipment to existing masters who will train new young tailors.

This photo shows the business man from Shaartuz and his new staff members in front of the carpentry workshop and construction supply store in the Shaartuz bazaar district.



The owner of a Shaartuz construction supply business and carpentry workshop shown with the Economic Development Officer (front row) and his four new staff members (far right and second row). The owner has participated in two CAIP business trainings and recently received a \$1,000 loan from the CAIP credit partner in Shaartuz. "I hired four new staff because of the growth of my business as a at least two were directly the result of the loan I received from the CAIP program."

Consultancy visit by Mercy Corps Azerbaijan Business Development Services

Kamran Abdulayev spend two weeks in April working with the Economic Development Manager and economic officers of both countries. The consultancy focused on exit strategies including strategies for institutionalizing current CAIP economic activities and in providing support to support services including veterinary and agronomists.

Tajikistan

Descriptions of key activities in the last quarter

Khatlon, Tajikistan

The Shaartuz Central Bazaar construction is more than 60% complete. Upon completion in May it will increase the total sellers in the bazaar by approximately 75 and benefit a total of 150 sellers by providing renovated selling spaces.

Raasht, Tajikistan

During this period CAIP Economic Development team assisted the Navobad Beekeepers Association to officially register. The beekeepers association has now prepared plans for construction of a wax paper workshop. This association managed workshop will provide the following benefits:

Beekeepers will now be able to produce locally a key input to their process and will no longer need to travel the long distance to Dushanbe to buy wax paper for their hives.

The production of wax paper in Raasht Valley will benefit over 1000 Navobad and Garm beekeepers who will have a less expensive locally supplied key input.

The wax paper production will create employment in the Navobad community.

(Estimated 20-25 jobs)

The local availability of a key input will indirectly benefit the over 1000 beekeepers in the Navobad and Raasht area who will have less expensive access to an essential input to the honey making process.

Construction is expected to begin in May of 2004.

Economic Infrastructure Projects

Date	Activity	Beneficiaries	Status
Uzbekistan			
March 1, 2004	Center for Fruit Drying and Packing	50	On-going
March 5, 2004	Junior Achievement Teacher Training and Economic Education	310 (Students and teachers)	On-going
April, 2004	Rishton Tailoring Apprentice Support Project	20	On-going
Tajikistan			
February-April 2004	Shaartuz Central Bazaar Addition of Seller Stalls	150	On-going, Expected completion in May 2004
February-April 2004	Navobad Beekeepers Association, Wax Paper Production Facility	*Approximate 1,000 Direct to receive employment estimated at 25 Indirect through availability of a key input for honey production 1,000	On-going, Beekeepers were registered as an association in April of 2004, and have submitted all plans for workshop
March, 2004	Junior Achievement	300 (Teachers and	On-going

	Teacher Training and Economic Education	students)	
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Total Estimated Direct Beneficiaries: 855



Location of the Takalik Center for Food Drying and Processing and the DFID funded Sewing and Marketing Workshop.

Support of Group Lending and Small Credit

Barakot Micro-finance Program- Ferghana Valley Uzbekistan

General support to Barakot has also included funds to open a new office in Margilon that will allow Barakot to serve additional CAIP communities.

MC CAIP is also working with Barakot to develop additional credit instruments that maybe made available in CAIP communities including individual loans.

In addition CAIP Economic Development has worked closely with two other micro-finance organizations in Ferghana Valley, Uzbekistan. *Partners in Academics and Development, (USDA funded)* who is currently lending to clients in the Ferghana oblast participated in the Mercy Corps CAIP/ ACDI VOCA Greenhouses Enterprise Seminar in April presenting information to the fifty plus participants. *ACDI VOCA's, Andijon based micro-credit program (USAID funded)* jointly hosted the event and presented its lending program to participants as well. CAIP also actively refers clients to these organizations when CAIP communities are served by them. Support of Barakot this quarter has included \$10,000 in loan capital that will be distributed in May.

National Association of Business Women- Khatlon, Tajikistan

In Khatlon MC CAIP continues to work closely with its credit partners NABW, to date having distributed loans to 63 clients with a total of \$67,200 in capital used.

NABW and MC CAIP also work closely to offer initial consultation and training to prospective clients via the Business Planning and Loan Aspects, 109 entrepreneurs and businesses have completed this four day training in order to improve their skills and to make the best decision regarding credit.

MC CAIP and NABW will continue to look for opportunities in the next quarter including piloting leasing first with non-CAIP funds and pending results with expanded funding in CAIP sites.

Oriyon Micro-Finance Program- Raasht, Tajikistan

In Raasht, MC CAIP has distributed 13 loans to 13 clients totaling 19,800 and Oriyon has trained 65 participants in the "Business Planning and Cash Flow Projection" as with NABW this allow clients to fully understand the effect of credit on their business and improve their skills. It is required in both cases.

Total Loans Distributed and Capital Disbursed via CAIP Credit Partners during this quarter:
\$87,000

Barakot	\$10,000
NABW	\$67,200
Oriyon	\$19,800

Regional Projects

While MC CAIP is currently working directly in five pilot communities, regional activities such as exhibitions, training, and technical assistance will be offered to all CAIP Uzbekistan communities. MC Economic officers also coordinate their work with mobilization teams in each Fargona Valley office to organize cluster activities.

Social Projects and Special Interest

To complement the Shartuz Bazaar project, a Social Project was conducted for the bazaar vendors which are primarily women. This social project was funded by CAIP and the Bazaar Administration. The project focused on promoting quality of products and services and awards were provided for various "Best Salespersons". More than 150 entrepreneurs participated and the women were delighted that their work was acknowledged. Many commented that they have been neglected since the Civil War and this was one of the first events that acknowledged their work. As a result of this project, many women expressed a keen interest in learning new business skills and trainings are now being planned under CAIP.

Employment Creation and Business Impact Beginning to be Seen

One recent NABW/CAIP loan recipient, Mr. Jumanazar, recently opened a modern petrol station with his \$1,000 loan and has hired two young people from the community to work there.

Anvar Imomnazarov, 41 years, lives in Shaartuz community, by profession technician-mechanic of automobiles, has two children. He participated in NABWT business trainings, prepared business-plan and received 3000 somoni loan. Anvar has private workshop on repair of automobiles and has two apprentices (20 and 34 years).

He is engaged in this business within 5 years and used loan for repair of workshop premise, purchase of drilling machine and necessary spare parts. His business is registered and has patent, pays for electricity. The apprentices are paid 30-40 somoni per month. From his words, he has monthly income of 400-450 somoni.

Zulfia Hamroeva, pensioner, teacher of mathematics, entrepreneur from Octyabr community. She interested in CAIP ED component, participated in Pragma "Improve your business" training, NABWT "Business planning and aspects of loan" training, prepared business-plan and received 3000 somoni loan. Zulfia is engaged in animal husbandry, bought 3 bulls in the local market for fattening and plans to buy one more. She has bought forage from his own capital, have good premise for the cattle. In family her husband and daughter-in-law look after cattle. From their

words they will keep cattle for fattening about 45 days and will sell to butchers of Shaartuz or will take meat to Dushanbe in their own transport. They plan to receive 15-20% of profit.

Khairiniso Turgunova, 53 years old, participated in Pragma and NABWT trainings. She is CAIP BDF client and owns small enterprise "Spaghettis of Shaartuz", where produces 4 types of macaroni products, has special premises and equipment, 4 workers, and can produce 1000 kg of macaroni products. The product is sold to the retail dealers of Shaartuz market. She used loan for purchase of raw material and other components.

Next Steps

Over the final year of CAIP, Mercy Corps will conduct an overall review of its economic activities to determine best practices and to develop priorities for future work in economic development. MC CAIP will also continue to coordinate its work with local and international NGO's to ensure sustainability of projects implemented under CAIP. This includes turning over and supporting most or all of its activities through national institutions.

In the upcoming quarter the following major activities are planned:

June 2004, Regional Staff Exchange, the Tajikistan economic development team and Uzbekistan teams will spend one week observing the work of their colleagues and sharing experiences

June 2004, CAIP Economic Development Manager will attend a two week MicroEnterprise Institute in New Hampshire focused on microfinance and business development services

September 2004, CAIP Economic Development will host a regional conference with partners and beneficiaries to discuss lessons learned, strategies for the upcoming months, exiting from CAIP, and development of local institutions capacity to conduct economic development and business development services.

In addition to the Economic Development activities, CAIP continues to employ community members on the construction of community infrastructure projects, and in their long-term maintenance. In most cases, community members provide in-kind labor for these projects. However, specialized labor and project management are paid positions. To date, CAIP has generated 880 short-term jobs, and 31 long-term jobs through the implementation of infrastructure projects. The infusion of capital and increased economic activity associated with infrastructure projects undoubtedly has a domino effect in creating more jobs with CAIP vendors and subcontracted construction companies.

Expected results for the next reporting period (2nd quarter 2004):

In Raasht this May MC CAIP will bring together veterinarians and livestock farmers to discuss ways to combat animal disease. In Ferghana Valley, Uzbekistan meetings will be held with groups of new greenhouse operators to talk about best practices, technical needs, and identifying disease resistant varieties of plants. Roundtables have continued to evolve as the needs of businesses, local government and support services have been identified through CAIP Economic Development activities, particularly lending and economic infrastructure projects. MC CAIP will also partner with the International Labor Organization to support a roundtable on the rights of unemployed.

In general MC CAIP will continue to use roundtables to link local officials to businesses but also expand to capitalize on the shared needs and goals of loan clients, support sector businesses, and associations of business people.

Cross-cutting Objectives

USAID designed CAIP with two cross-cutting objectives: Conflict Mitigation, and the Inclusion of Youth. Each of the three Intermediate Results is united under these two common themes, and all Mercy Corps' CAIP program activities incorporate strategies directed at meeting these two cross-cutting objectives.

Sources of Conflict Mitigated in Target Communities

Training in Local Capacities for Peace in the Ferghana Valley

Mercy Corps has conducted Civil Society trainings in all communities (with inclusions of local govt and businesses) and have discussed the LCP framework with selected members of CAGs, Youth and Women Committees (perhaps with a total of 12-15 people) in all communities. During the discussions we focus on how to strengthen connectors and weaken dividers. Though the discussions often pivot around infrastructure projects, whenever possible we broaden the discussions to address the connections and divisions/tensions in the communities which are not resource-based.

We have used the Local Capacities for Peace framework to do conflict impact assessments as part of the project review process after the completion of projects. We used the original PRA information to characterize the projects that were done in terms of conflict potential. We now conduct an LCP analysis of new projects and require a short conflict impact assessment to be included in all project files, similar to an environmental impact assessment.

As the teams conducted the initial LCP discussions (starting with the community that they had the strongest relationship with), there were no real problems. Teams said that the discussions were "lively", and that in some cases they were surprised at how open the participants were. The exercise was basically to identify connectors, dividers, external threats and internal threats, and teams talked with people about each category. The teams are now scheduling this exercise in their other communities, and they should all be done by the end of June.

However it is a challenge to conduct this exercise in a way that addresses issues beyond CAIP - a lot of the answers are related to problems with social infrastructure, the impact of CAIP, etc. It seems to be more comfortable for communities to talk about connectors and dividers in this small context, but it may be harder for them to do it in a "big picture" way. Mercy Corps continues to endeavor to push the discussions a bit further in the next round, but these initial discussions have been useful in getting the communities used to using this terminology and thinking about issues of conflict in a more analytical way.

During the PRA process and in the community profiles, projects and infrastructure needs generally played heavily into the description of tensions in these areas. The vast majority of projects were addressing problems that were specifically listed by communities as contributing to the overall level of tension in the community, so although it was not explicit in the beginning, most projects are addressing some kind of tension factor.

Effort to Integrate Additional Conflict Resolution Programming in the Rasht Valley

In an effort to encourage communities to be fully cognizant of existing tensions and to be aware of the potential for the formation of new tensions, Mercy Corps staff in Rasht Valley will begin introducing "connector and divider" activities during Consensus/Confirmation Seminars and during project Action Planning Seminars in CAIP communities. The activities require community

members to consider the ways in which individual projects can serve as a mechanism for connecting, or dividing, community groups. During the project planning stage, community members will attempt to foresee ways in which projects might negatively impact relationships resulting in conflicts and then seek ways to mitigate those impacts. Community members will again revisit the idea of connectors and dividers during a “lessons learned” activity embedded in the Confirmation Seminar process. During this seminar, community members will discuss how projects have served to connect and divide their community. Community members will then try to address any divisions which have been created while taking note of successes to ensure that the program continues to develop.

In addition, the Rasht Valley CAIP staff participated in its second conflict resolution training designed to encourage participants to consider the root causes of conflict. The staff will, in turn, conduct the same activity in CAIP communities as a part of our community capacity building component.

Inclusion of youth: The Youth Forum

One of the primary goals of USAID’s Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) is ensuring quality youth participation in planning and implementation of CAIP community projects. To encourage this involvement and teach youth how they can become more active role-players in their communities, USAID and CAIP implementing partners Mercy Corps and World Education hosted the first International CAIP Youth Forum in Ferghana, Uzbekistan. Nearly 80 youth from 38 communities and the three countries that comprise the Ferghana Valley—Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan—came together to share their experiences in decision making and participation in rehabilitation processes within CAIP projects, and develop strategic plans for the futures of their communities. Youth participated in seminars, presentations and information exchange during the course of the four-day forum in February, and have already begun implementing new ideas they learned at the Forum within their respective communities. Following, three young women share their stories of their involvement with CAIP, what they have gained from USAID’s International Youth Forum, and their hopes for the futures of their communities.



Youth make up nearly fifty percent of the population in parts of Central Asia’s Ferghana Valley. However, in the deeply traditional environment, they are given almost no responsibility or decision-making voice in their communities, as only elders are allowed such roles. Youth (15 to 25 years of age) also face a nearly sixty to eighty percent unemployment rate, and few have developed employable skills. These factors have left youth feeling disenfranchised from their communities and with few ways to occupy their time, and have combined to “create fertile soil for extremist movements, as well as [youth] becoming part of the constantly growing crime problem and rising drug and alcohol abuse,” according to one youth leader in Uzbekistan.

The goal of the youth forum was 'to create opportunities for youth from CAIP communities to share their experiences in decision-making and rehabilitation processes within CAIP projects and develop future "next step" plans.'

To achieve this goal, youth attended seminars, participated in round table discussions and gave presentations on problems in their communities and recommendations on ways to go about solving them. "In many communities, there are identical projects, but different approaches, and I learned to implement projects in new ways," a young woman from Margilon says. Other seminar topics included youth mobilization, organizing social events, mentoring programs, health and volunteerism.

Mercy Corps and World Education also partnered with a variety of other youth-focused organizations to participate in the Forum, including ABT Associates' Sports Health Education Program, the Uzbekistan government youth organization *Molokot*, and Population Services International, which gave presentations on HIV and drug prevention, and hosted the final evening's events and disco.

Together with this "great amount of information and experience", participants agreed that the forum taught them important life skills that they had not had the opportunity to acquire before in the rote-learning education system of Central Asia. Communication, public speaking, leadership and self-confidence were some of the most beneficial skills and lessons that youth said they learned during the forum. "I learned how to make presentations and express myself in front of others," Ilhom, a youth from Galatoy community, says. Shulopat from Chust community adds: "I had no experience how to be a leader before. The forum gave me a chance to communicate with youth with more experience and knowledge."

The international aspect of the forum also gave youth an opportunity to meet with their peers from the three participating countries and share their unique yet common experiences, a rarity in the tightened borders in Central Asia since the fall of the Soviet Union. "I had never met anyone from Tajikistan or Kyrgyzstan, and now I have made friends with them," one Ferghana lyceum student says.

"At the forum I made a lot of friends from other countries and learned their traditions," Nargiza from Kokand, says. "I have a new outlook in life, and new horizons."

Youth Forum Outcomes



round table discussions on issues facing youth today.

The success of the International CAIP Youth Forum can best be measured by outcomes in the form of projects that the youth themselves have developed and implemented. As a direct result of their participation at the forum, in less than two months youth have taken the initiative to launch numerous projects, events and clubs in their respective communities. Several forum participants have formed youth clubs and committees in their mahallas, where none existed before. These youth groups are planning and implementing a variety of projects such as sports teams and competitions, English language clubs, and

Youth in two communities have begun landscaping on sports fields, taking on all responsibility for their completion, from labour to receiving the land and proper documents from local government officials. Young women have been especially active since their participation in the Youth Forum. Youth in Pakhtabad organized a round table for teenage girls to discuss issues facing young women, with a focus on women's health. Women in Chust held a day-long event titled "Way to go, Girls!" which included sports and intellectual competitions and a talent show. Organizers said the goal of the event was to teach women and girls to be more emancipated and give them a sense of self-empowerment. The Forum representative from Beshkapa has spear-headed the founding of a youth club which recently hosted an essay contest for 10- to 12-year-old girls on the theme: "Cooperation between CAIP and our Community through the Eyes of Children". While in Tagob, young women have created an art club where they can meet, express themselves artistically, and hopefully generate a small income through the sale of their art and handicrafts which will go towards future projects for youth in their community.

Such committees, clubs and events are only the beginning as youth throughout the Ferghana Valley become more active in their CAGs, youth groups and project implementation. They are earning the trust of the formerly skeptical elders in their communities, who themselves are seeing the progress and allowing youth more participation in CAIP projects, even electing them to adult CAGs. Echoing the words of almost every Youth Forum participant interviewed, one woman from Tagob says, "I have great plans for the future," and the last few months are proving that youth are learning to bring such plans to fruition.

Youth Forum Participants' Reactions

"We were welcomed to the Forum with smiles and kindness. We were excited by the active role that everyone took in the forum," Albina, Kyrgyzstan.

"We got to know other people from other countries, other communities. We made many new friends despite the language barrier," Manzara, Batken, Kyrgyzstan.

"I gained communication skills to communicate with foreigners," Shahlo, Kokand, Uzbekistan.

"This kind of forum helps youth to solve their problems," Ayhara, Kyrgyzstan.

"I expected to come to the forum and just sit and listen. But I learned how to express my opinions clearly," Umid, Kokand, Uzbekistan.

"I gained a lot of self-confidence," Negora, Namangan, Uzbekistan.

Youth Case Studies

Mohira

The first feature you notice about Mohira Ohunova is her hair: a single, thick black braid hangs elegantly to the back of her knees in the traditional Uzbek fashion. The second feature is her personality: a combination of nerve, wit and intellect that seem to contradict her physical appearance as a traditional Central Asian woman. She possesses a contagious passion for learning, and had dreams of becoming a schoolteacher in her community of Beshkapa. After graduating from school where she received excellent marks, she applied to the pedagogical institute in Beshariq, Uzbekistan, and was granted acceptance, but only on a contractual basis, which means in short, she must pay for her education. Her family was too poor to afford the 300 dollars a year for her study, but she did not give up. "I believed in myself, that I could be a

better person," Mohira says. "I wanted others to benefit from what I could learn. I just wanted to study, to develop myself as a person, to help others, to develop youth..."

In the subsequent two years, Mohira again applied for entry to the pedagogical institute, and again received the same reply. She begged her father to help her pay for her education, but was met with expectedly less than enthusiastic support from a man supporting his family on thirty dollars a month. "He said, 'Why do you need this education? Where will I get such money? We haven't even finished building our house yet.'"

Mohira's situation echoes throughout Central Asia: young, intelligent, talented aspirants being refused entry into institutes of higher education for lack of space or lack of money. Compounding the problem is the nauseatingly well-organized system of bribes that has been in effect in the harsh economic climate following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Teachers and administrators are paid so little (or sometimes not at all) they have been forced into supplementing their incomes by requiring payments from students. Mohira's cousin, for example, paid a 300-dollar bribe to gain acceptance into college. The most universally accepted method is a bribe-for-grade system in which students pay five dollars for a 5 mark, four dollars for a 4, etc. "It's 'pay up or receive a 2,'" Mohira says, "Nobody looks at a person's capabilities, only what's in their pockets." It is so common that often a student group leader will openly collect the money from his classmates and deliver it to the professor. Those without sufficient funds to play the game are left with little chance at improving their education.

Mohira studied sewing at a technical college and began work as a part-time seamstress, but was unhappy without further education or stimulating her intellect. "I had lost all hope, and I felt like I was going out of my mind," she says. "I became indifferent to everything, I didn't trust anything, and felt that without money, I couldn't do anything in life." Once a very studious pupil, she now found herself mocking her younger sister for her dedication to her studies. "I would say, 'Why study? What's the point? You still won't get into the institute without money.'"

All that changed a year-and-a-half ago when a friend invited her to attend seminars that CAIP was holding in her community. She was impressed by what she learned, and impressed to see other youth in her community taking an active role in *hashars* during project implementation. She immediately wanted to become involved and help to make a difference in her community, and has been an active member of her Youth Council ever since. "When CAIP came to our community and gave me a chance to work with youth, I found a new hope in life," she says. "The people made a great impression upon me. I saw that there were good people and decent organizations that work without bribes, and who are here to help youth."

Her active participation led to her being chosen to represent her community at the International Youth Forum. She made the most of her opportunity, taking an active part in seminars, leading presentations, and singing and acting during a reenactment of a traditional Uzbek wedding with her fellow teammates. During one of the highlights of the weekend, Mohira stood up to challenge a representative of the government-run youth organization, 'Molokot', to reach out more to youth in rural communities. She received an uproarious applause from her peers for her statements. Mohira was recognized for her efforts by receiving the 'most outstanding participant' award during the final ceremony. But, true to her fashion, Mohira says she would have much preferred that her team had won a group award.



Since the 'perfect' Forum and her 'weekend long amazement', Mohira has been even more actively mobilizing youth in her community. She and some other young women are forming an art club that will serve as a medium for them to express themselves artistically, and hopefully generate a modest income for future projects for youth. "I want to tell youth to be more active, to strive to go forward," she says. "We can achieve anything with our strength, our minds. Maybe they can change. I've changed. I feel a strength inside me to be able to change my life and the lives of others."

Mohira is engaged and will be married this summer.

Zulfiya

"Person Without Citizenship" is the title that the Uzbekistan government has imposed upon Zulfiya Radjabova and the other eight members of her family for the last twelve years. Tajiks by nationality, Zulfiya, her mother and six siblings moved to Namangan, Uzbekistan in 1992 on the eve of the civil war in Tajikistan. Her father, a member of his local government, remained behind, and only joined the family two years later. Zulfiya, at nine years old, suddenly found herself fatherless, and, as the oldest girl in the family, helping her single mother to run the household. In the chaos that accompanied the move, her mother never found the time or assistance necessary to navigate the labyrinth of laws to register as immigrants or to apply for Uzbekistan citizenship. And ever since, they have been without citizenship both in their homeland of Tajikistan and their adopted home of Uzbekistan. Adult 'persons without citizenship' in Uzbekistan must acquire identification documents designating them as such, which are tantamount to licenses of harassment by local police and government organs, and for which, they must pay one hundred dollars each. For most of her life, Zulfiya has felt the sting of being a minority in a fiercely nationalistic police state, and says she cannot believe, after twelve years, that, "My family still hasn't been accepted as locals here."

Now, with the war in Tajikistan tenuously resolved, the family has wanted to return to their homeland and reestablish their roots there. The government of Uzbekistan is happy to oblige, as soon as the family acquires Uzbekistan passports and exit visas. But, as persons without citizenship, it is nearly impossible to obtain such documents without proper registration papers, or the proper amount of money to bribe government officials. "They won't let us leave, but they won't give us passports," Zulfiya says, beginning to cry as she relates her story. "But everything will be alright. I think it'll be okay. I've learned a lot about life here."

Today, at 22 years old, Zulfiya has learned a lot about life. She has overcome the numerous hurdles that she and her family have faced to achieve a degree in economics from a local institute, and speaks four languages fluently. And, she is taking what she has learned and applying it to make a difference in her adopted community of Obod, in Kosonsoy, Uzbekistan. Despondent about her family's catch 22 and her unfulfilling work as an administrative assistant at

a local factory, Zulfiya looked for outlets to realize her motivation and her talents. A little over a year ago, she began attending CAIP seminars, and became an active member of her community's CAG shortly thereafter. Mercy Corps' presence brought her and her community new direction and new life, she says. "Before, no one in our community listened to one another. Now, Mercy Corps has taught them how to communicate." Zulfiya was excited about her newfound interest, and took an active role in implementing the community's infrastructure and social projects, but she wanted to attract other youth to become involved in CAIP as well. After taking part in Mercy Corps trainings, she and some other community residents organized a football game for youth in Obod, as a pretext for teaching them about CAIP and its activities. As a result, a Youth CAG was recently organized in Obod, made up of thirteen youth from the community, and, as Zulfiya is happy to point out, it is multi-ethnic: nine Uzbeks, two Russians, one Kyrgyz and one Tajik. The Youth CAG is used as a forum in which youth can express and discuss their issues and concerns, which Zulfiya then relates to the adult CAG. They have also written a strategic plan and are looking for donors for construction of a youth center in their mahalla.

For her active participation in her community, Zulfiya was chosen to be a member of the steering committee for the International Youth Forum. She was also one of the most active and outspoken participants of the Forum, addressing youth on problems and solutions in her mahalla, and taking part in role playing presentations. She says she has learned a lot through her involvement with CAIP and her participation in the Forum, including how to mobilize people, how to teach by example and "how to achieve things by and for myself."

Perhaps the best outcome of the Forum for Zulfiya was the chance to connect with her compatriots from Tajikistan. A delegation from Garm and Shaartuz attended the Forum, and they and Zulfiya established a close bond over the weekend events. She was able to speak with peers in her native language and learned a great deal about life in her former homeland. As they parted ways on the final day, exchanging hugs and kisses and phone numbers through their tears, Zulfiya wanted them all to know that they would meet again, in Tajikistan.

Dilafruz

As a member of both her mahalla's Youth Council and the steering committee for the International Youth Forum, Dilafruz Pulatova spent a lot of time traveling around various communities with CAIP Community Development Officers (CDOs) to help prepare other youth for their upcoming involvement in the Forum. This responsibility—seemingly at best benevolent, at worst harmless—was not well received among other women in her conservative home community of Beshkapa, Uzbekistan. "They said, 'eh-h, she's going around in a car with two or three men, traveling all over, an unmarried woman!'" Dilafruz explains.

The reserved Dilafruz held her head up high, though, and refused to let the jeers and the gossip defeat her plans for trying to better the lives of youth in her community and in the Ferghana Valley as a whole. As a 22-year-old schoolteacher, she has devoted the last several years to helping children and youth, but she says CAIP gave her the opportunity to improve her own life as well. "Before, I never even left our mahalla," she says. "It was work-home, work-home...home by three every day." Now, this very modest and shy young woman has become an active member of the CAIP Youth Council in her community, religiously attends CAG meetings, takes an active role in project planning and implementation, and has helped to conduct small seminars for youth around Kokand, in preparation for the Forum. And she says she had found new confidence in the future and in herself.

But women in her community continued to talk, and even her mother became uncomfortable with Dilafruz' work and 'riding alone with men in a car,' as well as the damage done to her daughter's reputation, and she asked her to discontinue her work with CAIP. Rumors were

spreading and some community members were speaking of Dilafruz as a prostitute, and this became more than she could bear. She decided the Youth Forum in Ferghana would be the untimely and unfortunate end to her involvement with CAIP.

The Forum was a bittersweet four days for Dilafruz, ecstatic about the energy and the desire she saw in others to make life better in their respective communities, but saddened by the thought of this being her last chance to make a difference. Externally, she found companionship with other youth who faced the same dilemma as she, and were striving to bring change to their mahallas. Internally, she found herself overcoming her shyness and feeling comfortable speaking in front of an audience of nearly one hundred youth and facilitators about serious issues facing youth today in Central Asia. She was further impressed by the attention and encouragement youth at the Forum received from the older Mercy Corps and World Education organizers. "I honestly never expected adults to show attention to youth," she says. "Youth have been given confidence that adults somewhere will listen to them."

Clearly, by the end of the four days, Dilafruz had made a concrete decision to not end her involvement in CAIP, but rather take an even more active role in her community. Upon arriving home, she said her parents breathed a huge sigh of relief that said, 'good, your last event, now you can be at home.' Much to their chagrin, however, she responded that she would continue working with CAIP, saying, "You see, it is something that is benefiting me spiritually."

The benefit to Dilafruz personally has been the gain of the entire Beshkapa mahalla. Through the Youth Council, she and her peers have created a youth club, already actively working in their community. They recently hosted a celebration of Navruz (the Muslim New Year), held athletic events for young people, and sponsored a writing competition for children ages 10-12, the theme of which was "Cooperation between our Community and Mercy Corps through the Eyes of Children." She has also held a discussion for youth on what she learned during her 'unexpectedly amazing' four days at the Forum. "But, I can't tell them everything," Dilafruz laughs, "or they'll want to go in my place next year."

Challenges and Opportunities

Turkmenistan

As of this writing, all indications are that CAIP will be forced to completely withdraw from Turkmenistan due to lack of government approval.

Collaboration with other NGOs

Mercy Corps CAIP held a follow-up coordination meeting with **ACTED** in Kurgan-Tube for further collaboration with ACTED's **Water & Sanitation** and **Health Education Promotion Program**. Tentative agreements were made and a list of CAIP water and latrine projects will be submitted to ACTED in the near future.

A meeting was held with **Mercy Corps' Water and Sanitation Program** to discuss collaboration for our upcoming **Water Users Association Trainings** to be held in Garm and Tajikobod.

Follow-up meetings were held with IFES and IOM to discuss their participation in Mercy Corps' upcoming Youth Forum. Facilitators for the forum were identified. In addition, IOM discussed the following topics: the Role of Gender in Development, Work and Study Abroad Program, (Myths

and Realities), and Migration Labor and Counter-trafficking. CAIP met with AED to plan for the upcoming AED/USAID funded "Water Users Training" that will take place in Garm, Tajikobod, Khujand and Shartuz in April.

Mercy Corps CAIP attended a meeting took place in Kabodiyon that was jointly organized by the local government and **UNICEF** to promote **collaboration** between Mercy Corps-CAIP (school projects) and UNICEF's Water & Sanitation program.

Mercy Corps CAIP held a coordination meeting with **ACTED** to discuss collaboration with ACTED's **Water & Sanitation** program. ACTED shared their plans to construct 8 latrines (64 places) and hand pumps for Beshkent, Kabodiyon and Shartuz districts and will consider including Mercy Corps-CAIP's projects (renovation of a school, clinic, kindergarten).

Mercy Corps CAIP attended a regional coordination meeting organized by **UNDP** and attended a **Water User's Association** seminar in the community of Mikayan (Shartuz district) organized by **Action against Hunger**.

A **meeting was held with ACTED** to discuss coordination in communities where our programs overlap in the Rasht Valley. It was decided that our programs will collaborate closely in those communities.

CAIP staff participated in a regional coordination meeting held at the **German Agro Action** office in Garm to discuss approaches being used for poverty alleviation in the valley.

A **coordination meeting was held with the Red Crescent Society** to discuss opportunities for further collaboration in the Rasht Valley.

Garm management met with IREX's Civil Society Support Center in Garm to discuss how to collaborate on initiatives involving women

Annex 1: Success Story, Youth



Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)

Youth in the Ferghana Valley of Central Asia are faced with a wide range of problems from unemployment and financial problems to drug and alcohol abuse and crime. For many of the youth (defined by Mercy Corps as young people between the ages of 16 and 25), they lived the first half of their lives under the state-controlled system of the Soviet Union. The government provided for them in all manners, promising free education through school and an institute of higher learning, guaranteed employment upon graduation, and financial security for life. Suddenly, the system fails them and tells them they are on their own, it is time to fend for yourselves, higher education is prohibitively expensive, so pull yourself up by your bootstraps and find a job. Only there are no real jobs available. "Many of the youth have jobs, but they are not consistent with their age and minds, like trading at the bazaar or buying and selling goods," says Matabar Rahimov, Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) Community Action Group (CAG) member and school principal in Galatoy. Estimates on unemployment among youth in the Ferghana Valley CAIP communities range from 40 to 80 percent. For many youth, the above drastic changes were too great a shock to endure, and many also suffer from a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. "Today's youth have no faith in anything," is a common sentiment expressed by community leaders.

The combination of all of these factors creates an environment ripe for conflict. As defined by CAIP team members, primary sources of potential conflict in the Ferghana Valley include religious extremism, fighting within and among *mahallas* (communities), and tensions with the local government. A disillusioned, angry and unemployed youth is extremely susceptible to the influence of such extremism as a sole source of faith and community, and to acting out on his own frustrations in possibly violent ways. How to lessen this potential for friction is one of the primary issues the USAID-sponsored CAIP is addressing in mahallas throughout the Ferghana Valley.

Addressing the more immediate concrete problems of youth, such as unemployment, is one of the main ways to lessen the tension, and Mercy Corps greatly assists the communities in achieving this. Jobs are the first stepping stone to bettering their situation and getting them to engage in community life. CAIP's infrastructure projects have created hundreds of short term jobs for youth throughout the Ferghana Valley. These projects include constructing community centers, building gas lines and water mains, repairing damaged schools and much more. On any given project, between ten and a hundred and twenty people receive employment, a majority of them young men. Community members believe that this short term work is valuable, stating that the youth learn important marketable skills that will help them find jobs in the future such as carpentry and construction, welding, composing technical drawings, and writing estimation sheets for the projects. But if there are no jobs? "It does not matter," says Manzura of Furkhad mahalla. "Some will find jobs anyway. And even short-term jobs have positive influence. When a man has a job and is learning and acquiring new skills, he has no time for drugs or alcohol. There is no time for the negative."

More importantly, perhaps, and even more sustainable are the abstract benefits of the projects. "Youth are gaining respect this way," says Khodorjan Dadajonov of Buston mahalla. "And they are gaining self-respect. They feel more secure in their community now that they are contributing more, and the community feels more secure about them. I have even seen some

taking a more active role in helping the elderly and disabled.” Many community members expressed their pleasure at seeing a visible change in the youth. At first, the youth are not at all interested in the project and have no desire to take part, but after seminars and training and working on the project, they work even harder, as they are so excited for the next project to begin. “I was involved in another NGO who promised to solve our problems, but they did not,” Abduvali Hamidov (25) of Urganjibog says. “NGOs lost out trust. But now, with the CAIP, we believe in these programs and trust them and trust in our own potential.”

Annex 2: Success Story, Transparency



Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)

Transparency is one of the primary democratic principles that USAID and Mercy Corps have instilled in participating communities through their Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) based in Central Asia's Ferghana Valley. Democracy is a relatively new concept in an area governed by state rule for seventy years under the Soviet Union, and where, for centuries, political decisions in rural communities have been made by small groups of village aksakal (elders). One of the many ways in which Mercy Corps has helped to teach democratic principles and promote transparency is through requiring that each CAIP community display so-called 'transparency boards' from which all members of a community can receive information regarding the implementation of a particular project from start to finish. The required information ranges from budgetary questions and official state permission documents to members' names of the CAIP decision-making body, the Community Action Group (CAG).

In order to further increase communities' involvement in improving the quality and visibility of their boards, Mercy Corps recently held a transparency board 'competition' among all thirty of its communities. Mercy Corps teams visited each community during the competition, and judged the boards in a variety of categories ranging from quantity of factual information to visibility to creativity. Community members welcomed the judges and gave short presentations of their boards, explaining the content and answering judges' questions. Six of the communities were to be awarded \$100 prizes in the form of a social project or sports equipment for the best boards. This incentive proved to assist many of them in greatly improving the information, visibility and overall appearance of their boards. The new boards included before-and-after photographs of project implementation, minutes from CAG meetings and project blueprints. Many boards also contained suggestion envelopes, where community members were encouraged to contact their CAG representatives by leaving written questions and comments they may have regarding a particular CAIP project. In addition, many boards had been moved from their practically once-hidden location, to be displayed prominently near a completed CAIP project site or community center, where they were easily accessible to everyone. The overall informative quality and visibility of the boards was improved to surprising levels, as communities had embraced the concept of transparency in preparing their boards for the competition.

Furthermore, most communities went above and beyond the call, creating veritable works of art of their formerly dry transparency boards. They attached poems and artwork and cartoons written and drawn by community members and reflecting their work with CAIP. One community had their board mounted on a beautiful wooden frame hand made by a local carpenter. Another included a banner promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and anti-drug messages created by schoolchildren from their community. This was a most welcome and unexpected effect of the competition—the boards being utilized as a creative outlet for artistic community members, and that art as key in attracting people to the boards. Anyone passing by could not help but being drawn to these colorful boards by the artwork, and thereby drawn to reading and learning more about CAIP's activities in their community.

The rough (and unpoetic) translation of one poem reads:

Once our streets were muddy and we slipped and fell and got dirt on our clothes.

Now, we can walk to school and we can go to work, because we have asphalted our roads.

Annex 3: Success Story, Women



Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)

Hanifa Nazimova is a 34-year-old mother of two and a schoolteacher in Tojik, a small agricultural community near Kokand, Uzbekistan in the heart of Central Asia's Ferghana Valley. She moved here as a young bride in 1992, a few kilometers from her home village, and was surprised by how extremely conservative Tojik *mahalla* (community) was, even by the standards of the very traditional and religious Ferghana Valley. Such a traditional atmosphere can often mean restricted freedoms for women, and Hanifa immediately felt the difference. In her old village, she recalls the entire community gathering to watch movies when the traveling films came to town and projected movies on the wall of one of the school classrooms. It was an exciting event for the whole community to enjoy. In Tojik, watching the traveling films is a luxury reserved only for men. Women were scarcely allowed to walk the streets of the village without male accompaniment, and if they did, they were expected to walk to the other side of the street when a man was approaching to avoid close contact with him. Although difficult at first, Hanifa adjusted to her new life and the new social norms. What she found more disconcerting was the lack of development in the village—no drinking water, conflicts over sparse irrigation water, a dilapidated school—and the passivity of its residents to take action in their village's development.

"In my home village, people were more active, and I wanted the same in my new home," Hanifa says. "I want to make our village at least not worse than others, even better. We have to strive for better...I have a fire inside that makes me want to make our school the best and improve our lives and the lives of our children."

When USAID's Community Action Investment Program (CAIP) chose Tojik as one of their target communities, they encouraged one man and one woman from each family to attend an early meeting where Community Action Group (CAG) members would be elected. Hanifa attended the meeting with her brother-in-law, against her husband's wishes. When volunteers were needed to be nominated as CAG representatives, Hanifa raised her hand, feeling that this was the opportunity she had been waiting for to make a change in her village and improve the lives of its residents. When she saw the look of consternation on her brother-in-law's face, however, she almost regretted having nominated herself.

Her friend and fellow CAG member, Qunduz, says, "When Hanifa nominated herself, I could not believe what I saw. The mentality in our community is not as such that that would be acceptable for a woman to do."

For two days at home, Hanifa avoided her brother-in-law, for fear of his scolding her, and fear of his telling her husband what she had done. He kept silent, but soon, her mother-in-law discovered the secret. "Why would you do something like that?" she shouted at Hanifa. "Have you no other work? Nothing to do at home, is that it?"

Immediately upon learning of her CAG membership, Hanifa's husband told her he forbade her to continue this venture, but she challenged his ultimatum and attended the first CAG meeting a week later. Soon, she and her husband fell into a weekly routine—every Wednesday, she would attend the CAG meeting and every Wednesday, he would tell her she was never to attend another CAG meeting. As time went by, he softened his stance and stopped trying to prohibit her participation in CAIP, "or maybe just saw that it was futile to try and stop me," Hanifa laughs.

Tojik chose a community center as their initial joint project with Mercy Corps, and as the months went by, Hanifa worked hard during its implementation. She was excited when the construction neared an end, and planning for the opening ceremony began. The day before the opening ceremony was to take place, Hanifa and her husband's family were out in the field picking onions. A relative brought up the subject of the community center, and some of them began to make fun of her husband for allowing her to be so independent. When they arrived home, he told her with serious finality: "No more. You're not to attend any more of these meetings." She argued with him that she must attend in order to finish what she had started and to help make their village a better place. But to no avail.

The following day, the day of the opening, Hanifa's nephew came to tell her that her uncle was waiting for her in the onion fields. She knew she could not defy her husband *and* an elder relative without grave consequence, but her mind was made up. "Let him wait," she told her nephew, "I'm going to the ceremony." She attended the opening ceremony of the community center, and for the first time in her new village of Tojik, she was filled with a sense of satisfaction. But, when a friend told Hanifa that her husband had been at the ceremony and witnessed her participation, her elation turned to dread, and she ran home to hide from him.

When Hanifa's husband returned home, he found her and sat her down and said, "So, you had your opening ceremony, huh?" She prepared herself for the scolding of a lifetime, but when she looked up at him, she sensed a change.

"I saw a change in his eyes," she says, "I could see that he was pleased with the opening and with the success and the labour that had gone into the construction of the community center."

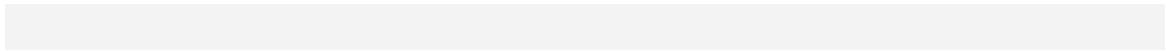
He only asked her if she was going to continue her work in the CAG now that the first project was completed. "I told him, 'This is only the beginning. I am going to take part further and you must too. This is your mahalla, too. You must be an activist in the next project and we can work together.' I influenced him, and who once had been my enemy, had become a partner."

Hanifa's CAG membership and newfound partnership with her husband has turned her life around 180 degrees. For years, when her lessons at school ended at 1:30, she was to be home by two. Now, she attends CAG meetings and works on project tasks and is often not home until four. Where once her husband scolded her, he now asks her about CAIP news and progress in the project planning of the new drinking water system the community has chosen to build. She is also very proud of the fact that other women have followed her lead. Many of them have come to her asking how they can take part, how they might get involved. "Now we understand that women can play a role in the life of the mahalla and can make decisions. Most importantly, women come to CAIP meetings and it is no longer considered amoral to do so. We can even talk freely to men on the street, because we are discussing one of our projects."

Her proudest moment as a CAG member, however, is organizing and leading a New Year's celebration for orphaned, underprivileged and handicapped children in the village, a dream of hers which almost didn't come to reality. Most of the men at the confirmation meeting had decided on holding a match of *ulak*—the polo-like sport played with a sheep's carcass—to celebrate the New Year, with CAIP's financial support. She argued for the children's celebration, winning her case, but offending some men along the way. But after the New Year's party, with Qunduz playing Father Frost, the community was pleased with the result, and with Hanifa's work. "Children cried with happiness at the celebration," she says. "To this day, families are thanking me for organizing the event, and some have even gone to my husband and thanked him for his wife's work, which pleased him very much."

Hanifa is excited for work to begin on the water project, and repeats her mantra of 'this is only the beginning.' She has plans for the future, she says, certain that their CAG will remain active and productive after CAIP's work is finished in her village. Her dreams for the future of the mahalla are many, including a children's park, a more modern school to educate their children with a library and computers. Her biggest wish is that children in the villages will not have such a disadvantage to children in the cities. And she believes her community can achieve these dreams. "Before, people were passive, including my husband. Now, he and others have become very energetic. Now, I believe if a person wants to, he can make change, make something better.

"If before Mercy Corps, life was gray and monotone, now a new interest in life has appeared in me, and I want to achieve things," she says. "I feel as if I have been born anew. And I feel that life is good to live."



Annex 4: Briefing paper for Carols Pascual/Kent Hill visit to CAIP community of Takalik, February 2004



Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)

Community Action Investment Program (CAIP)

CAIP is a three-year program designed to build social stability and alleviate sources of potential conflict in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Mercy Corps implements CAIP in 75 communities throughout the region, prioritizing areas where the potential for conflict is most acute, such as the tri-country Ferghana Valley (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) and Rasht Valley (Tajikistan). The root causes of potential conflict in the Central Asia Region are dynamic in nature, including border disputes, inter-ethnic tensions, poverty, and disputes over natural resources. CAIP became operational in May 2002.

CAIP works at the community level to:

1. Promote mechanisms for peaceful change to reduce the potential for conflict
2. Provide skills for improved civic participation and promote democratic processes among diverse groups
3. Contribute technical assistance and financing for community-driven, small-scale community infrastructure projects to improve social services
4. Provide technical assistance and financing to stimulate local economies and improve employment opportunities
5. Engage disenfranchised youth in community activities through mentoring and inclusion in social events

CAIP provides communities and groups with the skills necessary to improve their civic participation and increase public dialogue. CAIP fosters new community-government partnerships by providing training and technical assistance to help communities and local governments respond more effectively to community needs. Project priorities are identified within the communities at consensus workshops that ensure widespread participation.

Working closely with Community Action Groups to achieve the program's goals, CAIP repairs schools, community centers, and health clinics; improves sanitation and water supplies; and refits or repairs energy systems. Community members implement the infrastructure rehabilitation and social projects with Mercy Corp's assistance, and contribute at least 30% of the cost of each project. This process gives citizens a sense of ownership and increases the likelihood that the communities' newly constructed or repaired infrastructures will be maintained in the future. By focusing on local infrastructure, CAIP hopes to reduce the risk of conflict by encouraging community participation in solving local problems and improving the overall quality of life.

Yazyovon District, Takalik Community Profile

Region/Oblast:	Yozyovon Region, Ferghana Oblast
City/Town/Village Cluster/Community:	Takalik 1 and Takalik 2
Population & Population Density:	1,303 population; 124 persons/km2
Nearest city:	Marg'ilon (Ferghana)
Agricultural/industrial; types of industry:	Horticulture (melons)
What capacity are factories working at:	None

Ethnic composition (homogenous or mixed): Karakalpak 95%, Uzbek 4%, Tajik 0.5%, Other 0.5%
Presence of Colleges and/or Universities: One Secondary School
Unemployment among young people (estimate): 90%

Potential for Conflict

Takalik was chosen by Mercy Corps as a CAIP community because of **ethnic isolation, extreme distrust of government, an extremely high rate of unemployment**, and its reputation as a **popular area for religious extremism**. In addition, there have been tensions over access to resources, in particular, water, land, healthcare and education. Takalik is strategically located at the junction of three oblasts, and is equidistant between the two conservative cities of Namangan and Marg'ilon.

Takalik's population is comprised almost entirely of ethnic **Karakalpaks** (a region of Uzbekistan bordering the Aral Sea) who emigrated centuries ago and have lost their language. The population remains largely homogenous, however, and there is little intermarriage with Uzbeks. Community members feel that their community has been overlooked by the government since Independence, and many in the villages believe that it is because they live outside the district center and are easy to ignore.

The **attitudes of the population towards the local Hokimyat** vary greatly, but there is little doubt about the local population's lack of faith in the ability of local government to address the needs of the community. Takalik community members report that there is little support from the government despite the obvious disrepair of the school and the community's lack of any type of health care facility.

The **unemployment rate among youth** is growing and, as a result, it is estimated that close to 20% of Takalik's young adults have either immigrated to Russia or Kazakhstan for work. Among those residing in Takalik, unemployment figures are as high as 90%. There is a rising problem with drug addiction and crime among youth who do reside in Takalik.

The situation with **land** also gives cause for concern. Youth in the community have gone to the local authorities to complain that there is no land available for farming. Residents say that all the land that was privatized went to rich people or local authorities, and community members feel that they are being treated unfairly and that corruption is in evidence.

Religion plays an important role in the life of the society and there have been reports of some religious extremism in the area. Some community leaders have expressed concern over the fact that community youth are vulnerable to extremist groups due to the lack of available jobs or opportunities for recreation in the area.

Healthcare is a major source of tension for residents who must travel an average of ten kilometers to access a medical clinic. Transportation to the area is limited, and many residents express concern that people will die before they are able to receive medical attention.

Due to corruption and bribery, and the financial status of most families, young people often face difficult barriers when it comes to gaining **access to institutes of higher learning**. As a result of these barriers, community members resent the forces which prevent them from obtaining a good education, often times resulting in extreme dissatisfaction with the government for being unable to provide better opportunities.

The **system of water supply** is a major concern. Residents must walk an average of 1.5 kilometres to get drinking water from one of the two taps in the community. There is no irrigation water available for private farmers, and residents are angry that over 500 hectares are insufficiently irrigated for use by farmers.

The **power supply system** is also in need of extensive repairs. The community's transformers (4) haven't been repaired and modernized for the last 20 years. The current demand for electricity surpasses the existing capacity of transformers and in winter power is often turned off due to overloading of the transformers.

The village cluster of Takalik 1 and Takalik 2 has never had access to **natural gas**. For cooking and heating, community members rely on fuel sources such as wood and coal, which are expensive and scarce.

Community Projects to Date

Natural Gas: A natural gas pipeline (7614 meters total) is being extended from the central line outside the two Takalik villages into individual households, and ultimately the public school. The project will make gas available to each of 120 households in the village cluster. The average household size is 10 persons, for total beneficiaries of 1,303 persons. The total cost of the project is \$94,269.00. Mercy Corps is contributing 55% of the total cost, while community members and government are contributing 45%. Each household must cover the cost of extending the gas line from the street-level pipeline to the individual home and installing a gas meter. Stoves and gas heaters are also being installed in households. The first twenty households were supplied with gas on January 27, 2004. The local government gas department determines and collects fees for gas. The Yazyovon District Department of Education has agreed to finance the extension of the pipeline to the school and install radiators in every classroom. According to a recent focus group discussion, this project has improved relations between community residents and local government.

School Repair: In the Spring of 2003, the Takalik 2 community completed its first CAIP project to rehabilitate the school facility. The cafeteria, which is an annex building of the school was renovated and will be used as a center for youth employment skills training. The main school building will be rehabilitated next spring, repairing the roof, floors, windows, and installing an indoor kitchen. Gas will be provided from the natural gas project to supply heat and cooking facilities to the school.

Employment Skills Training: The community is just getting started on three skills-development activities selected by young people in the community: 1) sewing and marketing skills for young women, 2) fruit-drying, and 3) word-working. Equipment is currently being purchased which will become joint property of the school and mahalla, provided for use in the school annex, and supervised by experienced professionals in each of those three fields.

Annex 5: Mercy Corps Seminar “Religious Extremism: Awareness & Prevention” in Khatlon



Participants:

A total of more than 320 people attended the meeting. Participants included:

- Head of Shartuz District Imam-khatib (Religious leader);
- All Religious leaders from all communities of Shartuz district;
- A Religious leader from Kabodiyon district;
- A Representative/Consultant on Religious Affairs of Khatlon Oblast Hukumat;
- Deputy of Kurgan-Tube Hukumat;
- Head of Shartuz Hukumat, plus the four first Deputies, all heads of govt. departments and all other workers of Shartuz Hukumat;
- Heads of Shartuz Security and Legislative officials;
- Jamoat leaders;
- Heads of almost all Dekhon farms of Shartuz;
- All School Directors, and selected teachers and senior school students almost from all schools and students from a technical school (lyceum);
- Representatives of CAGs (Community Action Groups), Youth and Women Councils from all CAIP sites of Shartuz district;
- Deputies of Kabodiyon and Beshkent Hukumats; and
- Mercy Corps staff based in Shartuz.

Major topics:

- Motive/Purpose for organizing this event.
- Concrete examples (case studies) of religious extremism leading to 3 arrests in Kabodiyon, 1 case under investigation in Shartuz, 20 cases under investigation in Kuliab, and a total of 22 disclosed cases to date in the country, and more.
- Principle of genuine Islamic doctrine – several quotations, phrases and definitions basically taken from Koran to avoid misinterpretation that usually used by the religious extremists in order to destabilize law and order.
- Historical facts of the development of religious extremists in general with an increase focus on **Al-takhrir (meaning Liberator)**, starting from the date of its formation (back 1928 in Egypt), its emergence in 1958 in Palestine and in 1976 to Central Asia and it's the 1998 association with Khudoiberdiev Mahmud. Further discussions were on notorious war leaders, in the case of Tajikistan Civil War, its mysterious structures and secret dissemination of information through pamphlets, its illegal global function in about 40 countries, etc .
- Major target of the religious extremists, mainly among youth from less fortunate families, unemployed and less educated youth, and the devastating impacts of the Civil War was also widely discussed during round table discussions, including a question-answer session.

Conclusions:

Preventive action can't be seen as the responsibility of law enforcement departments only, but it must be done collectively and therefore the conclusions made can be summarized as follows:

- School Directors and teachers to conduct awareness rising activity in schools and technical schools;

- Religious leaders to do the same in mosques in any other opportunities with an increased focus on youth;
- Every participant (as they are among influential people) to share his/her experience from the forum with families, colleagues, friends, relatives, wherever possible; while police and other government structures carry out their duties.

Additional info:

Currently the Mercy Corps team is working on a draft of a success story together with the seminar organizers. Photos, videocassette and hard copies of the speeches (in Tajik) are available.

Annex 6: Mercy Corps Capacity Index Key

This is a key as to how Mercy Corps interprets the questions from the Capacity Index used to measure CAG capacity (originally developed by Aga Khan Foundation), used by USAID in the Web-PRS for CAIP reporting purposes.

1. Poorest and women attend meetings

Meeting attendance is generally between 40-60 people. Mercy Corps works with the mahalla committee and the community action group (CAG) to develop a list of attendees that will adequately represent the community. Often, representatives from each street in the community are invited, as well as business people, employees of the public sector, active community members, and community elders in order to ensure the widest possible representation. When MC checks "yes" it means that the meetings include a representative group of people from the community, including men, women, youth, unemployed, and ethnic minority groups.

2. Implementation problems and solutions are identified/discussed

Implementation issues and solutions would most likely be done in a smaller group setting. Large community meetings are held throughout the project cycle, but these are used primarily for the purpose of informing the community about the progress of the project. Problems and solutions are addressed at CAG meetings and as they arise by the project's designated manager and the CAG responsible for the project. In addition, public "confirmation meetings" are held at the end of each project to discuss strengths and weaknesses of each project and to propose strategies for avoiding similar problems in the future. By checking "yes" to this question, the CAG has identified and discussed project problems and solutions.

3. Actions recommended at meeting are feasible

Mercy Corps projects are selected during community meetings, and a basic feasibility analysis is done, including discussion of contribution, approvals, and cost. Once the project is selected the community's chosen CAG conducts a more thorough review of the project for feasibility. This includes reviewing the project's technical merits, whether the local government approves, or if the community can afford the project. If MC selects "yes" it means that the project has undergone a vigorous project review by the CAG.

4. Proposal exists for all projects currently underway

Mercy Corps does not require CAGs to submit formal project proposals. Ideas for projects are preliminary selected during a "Community Consensus Meeting". Projects are then reviewed for feasibility by a designated community group. If MC checks "yes" it means that a Project Selection Journal detailing the selection process and Project Description (design, budget, approvals, etc.) exists for this particular project. Project description and project selection journals exist for all projects currently underway. If MC selects "yes" it means that the project has undergone a vigorous project review by the CAG and has project documentation including technical drawings, estimates, and government approvals.

5. Projects are included in Community Plan

Mercy Corps' methodology does not require a formal "Community Plan" Communities have a list of their project priorities, which is updated at each consensus workshop to reflect the views of the community. If "Yes" is selected it means that projects have been prioritized and voted on by community action groups and a representative group from the community.

6. Responsibilities for Project activities are clearly expressed

Responsibilities for project activities are clearly expressed and assigned to CAG members. During a project review meeting, a project management table (Gantt chart) is developed with the CAG and active community members and is posted on the Transparency Board in the community.

7. Benefits from Projects justify costs

Projects are cost effective and benefit a significant portion of the community. Developing a clear cost benefit analysis for public works is extremely complicated and challenging for most governments in the world. How do you place a value on "community esteem increased by 25%"? What is the value of a "healthier child" in Uzbekistan? What is the value of "100 youths who have shunned extremism?" When MC selects "yes" it means that the project is cost effective, because it has value to the community, and that it forwards the objectives of USAID and CAIP.

8. Market for Project Service is adequate

Projects are selected by the community (i.e. the market). A project must be able to generate enough resources or revenue to maintain and sustain it. By selecting "yes", it means that the project has been selected by the community and has been reviewed for sustainability.

9. Projects are implemented within planned cost

By checking "yes" the project has been completed within the amount listed on the Project Description, or if a written cost increase memo exists in the Official Project Folder. In this unstable market environment, prices are expected to fluctuate, and communities are expected to learn from this experience. In general, Mercy Corps does not measure a project's quality by comparing a project's estimated cost and its final actual cost.

10. Project are implemented within planned timing

By checking "yes" the project has been completed by the planned completion date listed on the Project Description, or if a written time extension exists in the Official project Folder. Mercy Corps does not measure a project's quality by the amount of time taken to complete it.

11. Project implemented without CAIP grantee assistance

Project implemented by the community action group with assistance from Project Manager and relevant government authorities. If this is checked "Yes", it means that the community has completed project without any assistance from CAIP.

Annex 7: Civil Society and Local Capacity for Peace Training

Part A

I. MC CAIP Goal and Objectives and End Result

The group in the plenary discussed the overall goal and specific objectives CAIP/MCT, assessed direct relationships of CAIP/MCT specific objectives with components and jointly summarized as given below:

Goal: Conflict Mitigation - Reduction of potential for conflict

Objective 1: Democratic development, Capacity building/Empowerment and Mobilization (Community Mobilization);

Objective 2: Improvement of Social/Economic infrastructure and mentoring (Infrastructure Rehabilitation);

Objective 3: Employment creation and economic development (Economic Development);

Note: This joint activity enhanced memories of the group and helped to draw the end result as to develop strong Civil Society.

II. Sources of CAIP Funding

The group discussed and identified a wide range of sources of the program funding as follows: MCT CAIP/USAID; Community Members; Local Government and Farms; Local Businesses; National/Local and other International NGOs

III. Criteria used and Steps taken for Selection of CAIP communities

The group in the plenary discussed major criteria used and steps taken for CAIP/MCT site selections and group's findings are summarized and illustrated in the table given below

Major Criteria Used	Steps taken for Site Selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for conflict (Past, and Potential)• Youth unemployment rate• Demographic data, Population Density, Urban and Semi-urban vs Rural communities and Ethnicity Compositions• Infrastructure Needs (Education, Health, Energy, Water, etc)• Non-USAID/CAIP funded programs, etc	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meeting with Local govt. in order to (inform about MC CAIP goals, source of major funding and ask permission and get preliminary info)2. Conduct Rapid Assessment (RRA)3. Select sites against the criteria developed4. Develop Community Profiles and submit to USAID for approval5. Inform communities and local govt. about results of site selections

Part B: Mercy Corps Civil Society

Objectives:

1. To expose/introduce participants to the Mercy Corps Civil Society definition, principles, characteristics of healthy, vibrant civil society and favorable atmosphere necessary for establishing healthy and vibrant civil society
2. To demonstrate that Mercy Corps programs are implemented under the enlightenment of civil society principles and the end result is to establish healthy and vibrant civil society.

1. Definition:

Mercy Corps defines Civil Society as follows: Civil Society is both the process and result of civic organizations, government and business interacting in a way that is participatory, accountable and includes mechanisms for peaceful change, all of which contributes to the creation of more secure, productive and just communities.

Mercy Corps' civil society approach is firmly rooted in collaboration. What makes a society "Civil" is the interaction of these three sectors in such a way that ultimately promotes positive social values and behavior and that empowers people to participate in decisions that affect their lives. The three sectors include:

- Government (the public sector) – i.e., a governance system or the state,
- Business (the private sector) – i.e., a market system and
- Civic Organizations (the civic sector or the third sector) – i.e., a system for the expression of citizens' voices in which citizens associate and represent their interests.

Note:

1. *Drawing from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mercy Corps identified three principles that underpin a healthy civil society and directly relate to successful and sustainable relief and development: Participation, Accountability and Peaceful change.*
2. *Civic organizations include formal and informal voluntary associations that are organized around common interests.*

2. Characteristics of a Health, Vibrant Civil Society

Mercy Corps' civil society initiatives revolve around building relationships and improving cooperation and communication among and between three sectors (see illustration given below)

Mercy Corps' three key Civil Society Principles, which reflect values and behavior present in Health, Vibrant society include: a) Citizen Participation, b) Accountability, and c) Peaceful transition/change.

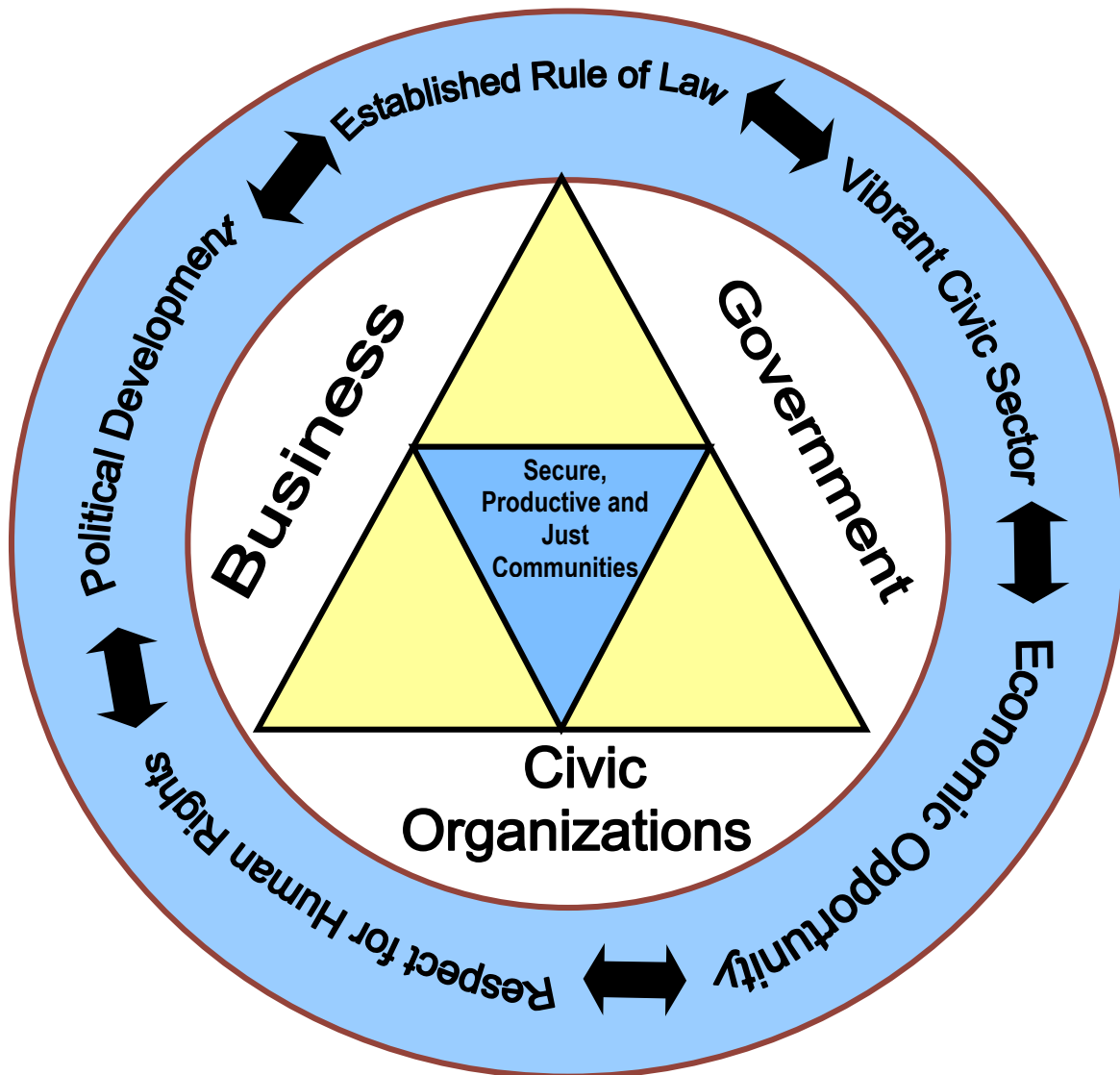
Certain environments enable civil society to thrive, while other environment limit collaboration, civic participation and overall transparency. Following are a few examples of positive conditions for an enabling operating environment for a Health civil society: a) Established Rules of Law, b) Vibrant Civic Sector, c) Economic Opportunity, d) Respect for Human Rights, and e) Political Development.

Some key Mercy Corps areas of civil society programming, which help bring to life Mercy Corps' civil society principles include, but are not limited to: a) Strengthening the Civic Voice, b) Rising Public Awareness, c) Sharing Tools and Mechanisms for Peaceful Change, d) Promoting Cross-sectoral Collaboration, and e) Localizing initiatives.

Mercy Corps' Relief and Development programs embrace and promote the three key principles of participation, accountability and peaceful change, as well as the above noted condition as imperative to long-term human development. (See the illustration given below)

3. Mercy Corps' Civil Society Diagram

Charting a Healthy, Vibrant Civil Society



Key:

The center:

Goal/outcome,
Possible with
foundation of a
healthy civil
society

The three
Principles:
Behavior that
characterizes a
functioning civil
society

The Actors:
Key players –the
dynamic inter-
relationship among
these three sectors
provides a foundation
for positive social
change

The outer
Ring:
Environment in
which a
healthy, vibrant
civil society
thrives

Part C: Local Capacity for Peace (Do No Harm)

Objectives:

1. To expose participants to the possible categories for understanding dividers/tension and war capacities and connectors/local capacities for peace.
2. To inform the participants about the patterns by which aid interacts with conflict,
3. To enable participants to anticipate and analyze the impacts of their aid programs on the contexts in which they work,
4. To enable participants to apply this step of the Framework to their own circumstances and, thus, to understand them better.
5. To encourage participants to look carefully at all the aspects of their own aid programs as a step toward analyzing their impacts on the context,

1. Connectors/Local capacities for peace

The group in the plenary discussed major connecting factors that contribute to local capacity for peace. The group assessed connectors by categorizing in to 3 major categories: a) Institutions / Common Values and Experiences / Groups; b) Infrastructure Projects and Social Events; and c) Influential People and findings are summarized and illustrated in the table given below:

Connectors/Local capacities for peace (LCP)		
Institutions / Common Values and Experiences / Groups	Infrastructure Projects and Social Events	Influential People
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth and Women Councils• Parents - Teachers' Committee• Mahalla Committee (Elder Council)• Militia/Police• National/Local NGOs• Common History, Religion• Culture and Tradition• Holidays and Weddings• Funeral• Mixed marriages (Inter-ethnic)• Common Needs & Community Meetings/Seminars• Common Language (Russian in particular)• Experience of Civil War• Credit centers• Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social, Commercial & Economic Infrastructure (Health Points, Schools, Irrigation & Drainage systems, Community / Youth / Women Centers, Parks, Transformers, Bazaars, Water Collection Points, Roads & Bridges, Mosques, Chaikhonas, Cemetery, etc)• Food and other humanitarian aid distribution points• Social Events (Celebration of Project Implementations, Day of Independence, Day of National Reconciliation, etc)• Khashars/Subotniks (Campaigns)• Cotton harvesting campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elders,• Religious Leader and Wives of Religious Leaders• Haji• Local govt. Officials• Militia/Police Officers• Farm Leaders• Youth and Women Council Leaders• School Directors and Teachers,• NGOs and Social Project Organizers• Medical Workers

2. Tension/Dividers

Similarly the group discussed major dividing factors that contribute to tension and assessed dividing factors by dividing in to 3 major categories: a) Internal factors, Past and current experience; b) Lifestyle, Occupation, Income; and c) Other Contributing Factors [Insider(s) and Outsider(s)] and findings are summarized and illustrated in the table given below:





Tension/Dividers		
Internal factors, Past and current experience	Lifestyle, Occupation, Income	Other Contributing Factors [Insider(s) & Outsider(s)]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfair/Unequal access to Resources (few examples) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unequal distribution of lands (Usually more fertile lands for Uzbeks), although actually depends on Heads of Farms • Unequal access to water (mainly Uzbeks get benefit) • Unequal access to Transformer • Inadequate access to education facilities (No enough lands for new school buildings and existing old buildings are not well equipped and furnished) • Competition over Political and Economic Power that involves clans and groups • Grievance resulted in looting, murder and burning property during the Civil War still remain as potential for conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment, underemployment, low income, low standard of life, high inflation • More fertile and bigger size of lands and high Agr. products controlled by Uzbeks than Tajiks • Demographic composition (80% Uzbeks, 20% Tajiks and other nationalities) • Difference in profit (Larger Tajiks migration for work, than Uzbeks) • Perception (Uzbeks are more industrious, while Tajiks are more lucky) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People (insider) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lazy and unmotivated people as source of tension/conflict • Religious and Political affiliation in the past • Idlers, drug addicts, parasites, thieves • Organization [Outsider(s)] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition over outside (INGO) services: • Jealousy among target groups within a target community • Jealousy among neighboring communities over INGOs services • Competition over outside National govt. & non-govt. org. services:

Site and Projects Chosen for consideration

- Birlyash [pp- 4560, Uzbeks - 2736, Tajiks -1368 and 456 (Turkmens & Kyrgizes)]
- Already Implemented (Auto-bridge Construction and Transformer Installation) and upcoming (School Construction) projects.

The group chose Birlyash and 3 projects (Auto-bridge, Transformer and School) for further consideration. Major focuses made included: a) Major Steps taken for Project selection and Implementation; b) External Assistance provided; and c) Basic ingredients of Community Contribution. Group's findings are summarized and illustrated in the table given below

Major Steps taken for Project selection and Implementation	External Assistance Provided	Community Contribution
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community Meetings (Community Institutions formation, Consensus and Confirmation Workshops) CAG/ Youth & Women Councils /PITs Meeting (Action Planning Training, Feasibility study Consultation on project design (necessary documentation), implementation & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance – community capacity/ Empowerment (Seminars, Training, Consultations) • Financial support • Encouraging feeling of voluntarism and self confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of space for workshops/ training, • Preparation of project documentation, • Provision of construction materials, lands, machinery/ equipment; • Skilled and unskilled labors including security guards,



Connectors	Dividers
Strengthen (Increase)  + ()	Weaken (Decrease) 
Weaken (Decrease) 	Strengthen (Increase) + () 

sustainability plans) 3. Resource mobilization, Project Implementation and Follow-up including planned Participatory M & E, Sustainability (operation & maintenance), etc	• Provision of fuel, Meals for workers, Cash; etc
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Projects Chosen for considerations

Project Name	Project Status	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Type (Ethnics, Groups, Occupation)	#
1. Construction of Auto-bridge	Completed	Uzbek majority, (Students, Education workers, Farmers, Transportation workers)	3000 – 4000 (neighboring villages)
2. Installation of Transformer and Electric lines	Completed	Uzbek majority, Tajiks (Households, Flour Mill)	700
3. Construction of School	Upcoming	Tajik majority, Uzbeks (Students, Education workers)	400

1. Construction of Auto-bridge Project (Completed)

Connections	Divisions
Strengthen ()  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Meeting/Workshop/Seminar (Increased Participation and Collective Decision-making) Action Planning Training (Increased Community Capacity – Collective planning, Resource Mobilization and Collaboration with Farms, Local Govt., etc) Hashar - Joint works of parents', youth, women's, mahalla committees and Head of farm (Increased Participation, Collaboration, Sharing Responsibilities) Opening Ceremony (Joint celebration of achievements, Increased Self-confidence and enhanced new initiatives and unification of neighborhood households - Uzbeks & Tajiks) Unification of 2 major ethnic groups (All Uzbeks and Tajiks can use the bridge) Information flow and social interaction (bus crosses and goes to neighboring villages, increased communication with neighboring communities and neighboring communities became closer) 	Weaken ()  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of feeling of jealousy among beneficiaries within the community [Ethnic factor – Uzbek majority in this part of the community, while other 2 walking bridges need repairs (where one is dominated by Tajiks and the other one is with equal composition of Uzbeks and Tajiks)] Creating of jealousy by neighboring communities

<p>Weaken () ↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tension created by taking some plots of lands from the govt./farm and households (slight changes on the direction of road crossing the bridge) • Creating tension between paid and unpaid labor (skilled and unskilled labor) 	<p>Strengthen () ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving inadequate access to school (Save time and energy, during winter in particular, and safety for children, i.e., parents do not worry about their children) • Improving access to work (Save time, energy and fuel) • Improving access to economic opportunities (easy access to market, short-term jobs for skilled labors and long-term jobs for bus drivers and merchants and increased income for farmers, increased agri. products associated with simplified access to agr. machinery) • Reduction of children's fights while passing through other households
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2. Installation of Transformer and Electric lines Project (Completed)

Connections	Divisions
<p>Strengthen () ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General town Meeting and Workshop in chaikhona / mosques (Increased Participation and Collective Decision-making) • Action Planning Training (Increased Community Capacity – Collective planning, Resource Mobilization and Collaboration with Farms, Local Govt.) • Hashar - Joint labor (youth, women, mahalla committee, head of farm) for installation and services and collective feeding (Increased Participation, Collaboration, Sharing Responsibilities) • Opening Ceremony (Joint celebration of achievements, Increased Self-confidence and enhanced new initiatives and unification of neighborhood households - Uzbeks & Tajiks) • Information flow, increased awareness and social interaction (access to information services like TV, radio, etc) • Separate/independent electricity supply (Reduction of reliance on transformer from neighborhoods and increase of self-dependence and feeling of group belongingness, implies reduction of tension over scarce resources) 	<p>Weaken () ↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of feeling of jealousy among beneficiaries within the community, i.e., those still with limited electricity supply associated with fragile transformers and electric lines need repairs • Creating of jealousy by neighboring communities
<p>Weaken () ↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating tension by taking some plots of lands from the govt./farm and households (for installation of poles for new electric lines) • Creating tension between paid and unpaid labor (skilled and unskilled labor) • Reduction of verbal communication between neighbors as the level of watching TV increased 	<p>Strengthen () ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving level of learning (school children can do home works effectively and teachers can prepare themselves for next day teaching) • Improving inadequate access to economic opportunities (job opportunity for mills owners and workers, welders, etc - increased income generations)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of neighborhoods fights over inadequate access to electricity supply
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3. Construction of School Project (Up-coming)

Connections	Divisions
<p><u>Strengthen</u> () ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General town Meeting and Workshop in chaikhona / mosques (Increased Participation and Collective Decision-making) • Action Planning Training (Increased Community Capacity – Collective planning, Resource Mobilization and Collaboration with Farms, Local Govt.) • Joint effort (head of Khukumat, parents-teacher committee, youth, women, mahalla committee, head of farm) for construction and collective education services (Increased Participation, Collaboration, Sharing Responsibilities) • Unification of beneficiaries (Respect to language – Uzbek and Tajik in particular, Increased feeling of group belongingness, etc) • Opening Ceremony (Joint celebration of achievements, Increased Self-confidence and enhanced new initiatives) • Information flow, increased awareness and social interactions 	<p><u>Weaken</u> () ↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of feeling of jealousy among beneficiaries within the community, those still in old schools needing repairs and furnishes in particular • Creating of jealousy by neighboring communities
<p><u>Weaken</u> () ↓</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tension created by taking some plots of lands from the farm and households • Creating tension between paid and unpaid labor (skilled and unskilled labor) • Weakening the existing parent-teacher committee by creating an other one 	<p><u>Strengthen</u> () ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to Education (Newly furnished school, Save time and energy, during winter in particular, etc) • Improving access to economic opportunities (New job for teachers and other education workers) • Reduction of children's fights while passing through other households